

OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018

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TOP WHERE SOLD

CCTV WARNING TO CRIME GANGS

Report by Sue Austin

A WARNING has gone out to travelling crime gangs who prey on Oswestry – if you come here, you will be caught.

The warning comes following an agreement for a major expansion of Oswestry's CCTV system which will include the installation of a camera on Gobowen Road, a busy entrance to the town.

The camera will have the ability to monitor traffic entering and leaving Oswestry and will have ANPR facility to enable vehicle registration plates to be recorded.

A total of three new cameras will be used in Oswestry to track travelling criminals and also to help tackle anti-social behaviour.

A new camera is to go up in the Castlefields area of the town while a mobile camera will also be made available to tackle trouble hotspots.

Mayor Vince Hunt said: "This is giving out a strong message to criminals to stay out of Oswestry. If you are coming into town to enjoy yourself then you have nothing to fear."

"But if you are coming in to commit crime or misbehave, then you will be caught."

He revealed that some years ago he had a quad bike stolen from the back of a trailer while he was visiting a company on the Oswestry industrial estate. "They were travelling thieves who were out onto the A5 and away very quickly," he said.

The town's CCTV co-ordinator Jim Stafford said the cameras move was made possible thanks to a successful bid for £6,500 to West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion. He said: "Rules over CCTV funding have now changed and grants can only be made if there is a promise of matched funding from elsewhere."

"We were only able to make a bid thanks to Oswestry Town Council agreeing to provide its own award of £6,500."

Mr Stafford, a former police inspector, said the Gobowen Road camera would target travelling criminals. He said: "If there is a crime – from thefts to a major incident – tracking vehicles can be vital in tracing the culprits."

Inspector Tracy Ryan said: "We want to make Oswestry as uninviting as possible to the criminals."

"We are very grateful to the Police and Crime Commissioner and Oswestry Town Council for jointly funding this expansion."

• Raid – See Page 2



Jim Stafford

Book-loving commuters boost school funds



Sheila Dee, director of Severn Dee Travel, checks out one of the books at Gobowen railway station. Photo by Jamie Ricketts.

THERE is nothing like a good book to while away a train journey.

Commuters have been making the most of a second hand book stall at Gobowen railway station near Oswestry. And their appetite for reading has helped local schoolchildren.

The books were collected and sold by Severn Dee Travel which runs the booking office at the station.

Directors of the travel specialist decided to

donate the latest sum raised to Gobowen Primary School.

They handed over a cheque for £250.

Severn Dee Travel director Jackie Allen said: "We were pleased to be able to direct the funds to such a worthwhile cause."

"We are very grateful to all those who have donated the books."

"We have a lot of rail travellers who will donate money in return for choosing one of the

books. Many will pick up books regularly for their journeys."

Gobowen Primary School headteacher Lucy Luke said the school was very grateful to Severn Dee Travel.

She said: "Because the money has come from the sale of books, the school has decided to fund some new books for classes with the money."

"Reading is so important, at every age."

HOMES

Drop-in session to be staged over plans for 17 flats

WELSHPOOL Town Council is looking to strike a compromise with developers after a controversial plan to build flats on a former social club was accepted.

Powys County Council's planning committee narrowly passed a vote earlier this year allowing Mid Wales Housing Association to build 17 flats on the site of the former Welshpool Social Club despite objections from councillors and residents.

Since the meeting Welshpool Town Council has held talks with the developer and is hoping to strike a compromise. Town Clerk Robert Robinson said: "The developers would like to do all it can, within reason, to meet the concerns of the residents. To this end the town council will host a drop-in day where residents can meet the developers and discuss their concerns so that perhaps a compromise can be reached. The main issues include the access to car parking at the upper level, the road access to the lower part of the site, access for contractors, overlooking and some design matters. It is hoped that through discussion that both the developers and residents can come to an agreed compromise to create a good development."

The meeting will be held on May 11 from 11am through to 7pm in the Corn Exchange of the town hall.

COMMUNITY

Post office set to pop up in church

A POP-up post office is set to be opened in a village church near Oswestry.

Post Office Ltd has agreed to open the post office at St John's Church in Weston Rhyn.

An opening date will be announced in the near future.

The new post office will be a hosted outreach service where the postmaster from Trefonen Post Office will offer the service from the church on a Thursday from 12.30pm to 2.30pm.

INSIDE

Students put on greatest show



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Walk in...Walk out

For more information
please see page 15



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ATM raid gang 'had struck in another town earlier'

Report by Jonny Drury

THIEVES who tried and failed to steal from a cash machine in Oswestry struck in another town hours earlier, police have revealed.

Developments have been made in the search for a group of men who tried to steal from the cash machine.

WH Smith on Cross Street in Oswestry was broken into in the early hours of Thursday last week.

However, the thieves were foiled when security measures let off gas and the thieves left without any cash.

Police were made aware and forensic examinations have taken place at the scene as West Mercia Police officers hunt for those responsible. Police have identified a vehicle that was in the Oswestry area which they believe is linked to the incident.

The vehicle contained a group of men and they are also believed to be linked to a similar incident a few hours before in Ludlow.

Inspector Tracey Ryan said: "We have been checking all our CCTV cameras and we believe a vehicle flagged up was involved. We also believe it is linked to a similar incident in Ludlow a few hours before.

"There were multiple people in the car and CID is conducting the investigation."

WH Smith was closed on Thursday as police carried out their investigations after the break-in.

Police were made aware of the incident when a passer-by in the early hours of the morning noticed the doors to the store were wide open.

Inspector Jeff Morris said: "The man got into the store in the early hours of the morning and tried to take money out but he was foiled when security measures kicked in. However, a significant amount of damage was caused to the inside of the premises.

"He failed to get any money from the machine but we are unsure whether he took anything else from the store."

Officers did carry out an arrest in the centre of Oswestry on Thursday, however Inspector Morris said that was in connection to an unrelated incident.

Trench volunteers pledge to rebuild after blaze



Mark Hignett surveys the damage caused to the recreated First World War trenches after the devastating fire. VOLUNTEERS behind recreated World War One trenches that were damaged in a blaze have vowed to get them re-opened again as soon as possible.

All that remains of the underground rooms in the trench system at Park Hall Countryside Experience near Oswestry are the metal frames of a bunk bed and a tin plate.

Everything else was destroyed in a blaze which was discovered on Monday morning last week. Police and fire specialists are investigating the cause of the fire with volunteers for the trench system saying there was nothing within the rooms that could have led to a fire.

that they actually were underground and gave visitors a real idea of what life must have been like in the trenches.

"We have schools booked to come and visit us here and since news of the fire we have also been contacted by people who said they had already planned to come and stay in Oswestry in the summer so that they could visit the trenches. They were created to commemorate the centenary of the first world war and as that continues we will be ensuring that we rebuild."

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Stone will be laid in honour of war hero

OSWESTRY will pay tribute to one of its heroes next week with the dedication of a commemorative stone.

Harold Whitfield from the town single-handedly captured a machine gun post during fighting in Palestine in 1918. He returned to the town after the war and lived there until he was killed in a road accident in 1956.

A commemorative paving stone will be laid in Cae Glas Park on Tuesday next week in the sergeant major's memory. To mark the centenary of the First World War the government has provided the stones for each of the soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross.

They include the name, rank and regiment of the VC recipient. Oswestry Mayor Vince Hunt will lead a dedication ceremony with Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Andrew Trelawny. Prayers and the blessing of the stone will be led by Padre Edward Ward and the Vicar of Oswestry, the Reverend Harvey Gibbons. Family and military representatives are also expected to attend.

During the fighting in Palestine members of the Shropshire Yeomanry were pinned down by machine gun fire in Turkish positions.

Harold Whitfield charged and captured the machine gun post single-handedly and shot the whole of the gun's crew and then turned the gun on the Turkish fighters and led an attack with hand grenades against them.

The war hero drove the enemy back, inflicting severe loss on them and by establishing his own group in the captured position he saved many lives. After the war he continued his military service, rising to the rank of squadron sergeant major, retiring in 1936 after 28 years of service to his country. Mr Whitfield was killed at the age of 71 in a collision between his bicycle and an army vehicle in December 1956. He was cycling from his work at the Express Dairies in Whittington to Oswestry when the accident happened.

Report by Aimee Jones

AN artillery gun in Oswestry's Cae Glas Park will be relocated to make way for a new statue of war poet Wilfred Owen – but the gun won't be moving far.

Town councillors voted to move the gun to one side of the park's Memorial Garden and have it stand alongside the new statue of Owen, which has been commissioned to mark the centenary of the First World War.

The gun has been in the park for the last 30 years paying tribute to all the gunners who passed through the nearby Park Hall camp.

The Wrexham branch of the Royal Artillery objected to the proposals to move the gun.

Members said a statue of Owen should not take precedence over the memorial gun or any other war veteran.

Chairman Jim Wadkin said Owen was already generously represented in the town with a school, pub and street all named after him.

Speaking at a special council meeting last week, Chris Woods, said: "I don't want to be disrespectful but I feel like it's a discussion for the people of Oswestry as to where the statue to the war poet, Wilfred Owen, goes. His war record speaks for itself."

"There is already the memorial gates with more than 300 names of people who died in the First World War."

"That's a fitting memorial in itself. I don't think moving the gun detracts from it."

Councillor Sandy Best said the Cae Glas Park management committee had met and put forward suggestions to create a flower bed centrepiece and position the gun and statue either side of it.

The proposal was accepted unanimously by the council.

The council will now have to find an extra £20,000 to complete the work as the area will need to be redesigned.

It had already set aside a budget of £40,000 for the statue which is being moulded at Castle Fine Art Foundry.

• Sticking – See Page 22



The gun in the Memorial Garden in Oswestry's Cae Glas Park will be relocated to allow for a new statue

'Traps' laid for riders at beauty spot

VANDALS are laying potentially dangerous traps for mountain bikers and horse riders at a beauty spot near Oswestry.

A group of mountain bikers came across large shards of glass which had been buried in the tracks on Nesscliffe Hill.

The glass appeared to have been deliberately broken into jagged pieces and then buried upright in

the loam on a tight bend. On previous visits, the bikers had also come across a large hay fork buried in the path as well as a large amount of glass sprinkled across the ground.

All the incidents have now been reported.

Laurence Williams was the one to discover the glass last week.

He was riding along the path and only saw the glass at the last minute, causing him to throw his bike to the ground and fall in to the bracken.

He said: "It's not as if we were riding where we shouldn't have been. It was just on the path, which anyone could use. They were very large pieces of glass which someone had deliberately buried in the ground. I was lucky that I saw it, but if it had been someone else it could have been a very different story."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lorry crash man flown to hospital

A MAN was airlifted to hospital after being hit by a lorry on the A5 near Oswestry.

Emergency services said the pedestrian was in collision with the heavy goods vehicle close to the Felton Butler roundabout just after 11am on Wednesday last week.

He suffered multiple injuries. West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "Crews arrived to find a man, believed to be in his 50s, who had been involved in a collision with a lorry."

"He received treatment for multiple injuries and a slightly reduced level of consciousness."

"He was immobilised and airlifted."

Garden sheds are target of thieves

GARDEN sheds at three properties in Oswestry were broken into.

A blue Carrera Blast mountain bike, valuable fishing rods, flat screen TV and boxes of tools were taken from Llwyn Terrace, off Beatrice Street, in Oswestry between April 21 and April 22.

Meanwhile, an iPod was stolen after being left in a car in Ascot Road, Oswestry. It happened between 7pm on April 18 and 8.45am on April 19. Two portable DVD systems and a Kindle were also stolen from a car in Croxton Rise, between midnight and 6am on Wednesday last week.

Another venue for music festival

WELSHPOOL Music Festival has announced a new venue for its annual extravaganza which is shaping up to be one of the biggest yet.

The Monkey Puzzle Cafe in Puzzle Square will turn the large premises next door to the cafe into a licensed music venue for the day, and it joins The Pheasant, The Angel, The Talbot, The Bay Tree and Fabrizio's as locations that will host live music all day on May 27.

A spokesman said: "We can't wait to present some amazing and very talented bands and solo acts."

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Tim Hopkins, right

Prestigious prize for research student

A RESEARCH PhD student at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital has been awarded a highly prestigious accolade.

Tim Hopkins was the winner of the International Cartilage Regeneration and Joint Preservation Society's (ICRS) Young Investigators

Award. The award was presented to him at the 14th ICRS World Congress which was held in Macau.

Tim's work, 'Cartilage Repair: A Delphi Consensus Study', was supervised by the late Professor James Richardson and Dr Jan Herman Kuiper at the hospital.

The Young Investigators Award is awarded to one researcher biannually who has demonstrated dedication to cartilage regeneration research.

A Delphi consensus study is based on the results of several questionnaires being sent to a panel of ex-

perts. For this study, questionnaires were distributed amongst a panel made up of clinicians and scientists. The questions related to cartilage repair and factors that influence its success following surgery such as microfracture or autologous chondrocyte implantation.

Hospital to invest £4m to further improve services

Report by Jonny Drury

OSWESTRY Orthopaedic Hospital will invest £4 million in its services and facilities in the next 12 months after hitting all its financial targets over the past year.

A board meeting on Monday heard how hitting targets has led to a £2.2 million surplus in its annual accounts.

It is made up of a £500,000 operating surplus and it has also received £1.8 million from NHS Improvement for hitting its targets. That money will go into a pot totalling

£4 million which hospital bosses will invest in a number of projects including a new state-of-the-art CT scanner to replace the existing machine and an upgrade for the Kenyon Ward, which admits general surgery patients.

Chief executive at the hospital trust Mark Brandreth said: "Delivering on our financial targets is so important and we were delighted to do so again this year."

"I want to pay tribute to our incredible staff for their hard work, which has made this possible."

The chief executive added: "This really is fantastic news for us as it will strengthen our cash balances and financial resilience, ensuring we can prosper and remain independent."

"More importantly, it means we can increase investments back into our services, supporting our ambition to deliver world class care."

The £4 million pledge comes on the back of a £2.5 capital investment in 2017/18, which was used to purchase new beds, do important work to improve the outpatients environment, and make car park improvements.

"They are a minimum of 10 per cent silver so would qualify as treasure."

The coins will be moved to Powysland Museum in Welshpool.

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Castle gets ready for a battle



Whittington Castle Siege Weekend will take place on Saturday and Sunday

THE year is 1813, the Napoleonic War is raging and hundreds of French prisoners have been sent to Britain, housed in the Oswestry area of Shropshire.

A band of local Republican sympathisers have freed several prisoners from their captors and are running riot in the Shropshire countryside, joined by a band of French insurgents sent on Napoleon's order to cause menace and mayhem.

The local mayor appeals for help and several British regiments on home leave have been dispatched to quell the invaders who

have taken possession of a stockpile of gunpowder and muskets and are holed up in the ruined castle of Whittington.

The scenario will be played out during the Whittington Castle Siege Weekend at the castle near Oswestry on Saturday and Sunday. The annual Napoleonic reenactment event will feature living history, in both the Allied and French encampments, drill and musketry displays.

Re-enactment camps will run from 10am to 4pm with a skirmish around 3pm each afternoon.

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Roads bosses look for more details on 150-home bid

Report by Sue Austin

A DECISION on a scheme for 150 new homes could be delayed because Highways England wants more information.

The planning application is for land to the south of Middleton Road in Oswestry and is part of a bigger piece of land designated for housing – the sustainable urban extension.

Local residents fear the extra cars generated will clog up nearby streets. Shropshire Council was hoping to hear Highways England's views on transport and the proposed development before arranging a meeting to debate whether to grant planning permission.

But a letter from Highways England has called on the council to hold fire until it receives a transport assessment.

In a report to the planning department Graham Broome from Highways England says pre-application discussions with the developers made it clear that a transport assessment would be needed particularly in reference to the effect of the housing on the A5.

He said that one had only just been received and, while it did include works to the Oswestry exit off the Mile End roundabout to allow for the extra traffic, there were still questions that needed answering. Mr Broome called for a postponement of any decision for three months.

Resident Sue Stewart has written to Shropshire Council saying that while developers say a new spine road will be used by those living in the new homes, drivers will still use the Middleton Road and Cabin Lane alternative.

This, she says, will turn nearby residential roads such as Aston Way and Prince Charles Road into rat runs.

"There are already restrictions and a one-way section already in place in Middleton Road," she added.

Mrs Stewart said many drivers looked to avoid the section of Cabin Lane that has speed humps by using the smaller, residential roads.

She says she believes that the estate will put far more cars onto the roads than forecast.

Shropshire Council will consider the planning application for the 150 homes at a future date.

A CAMPAIGN inspired by David Attenborough will take to Oswestry town centre this weekend.

Mandy Price and her daughter Becky were so horrified when the presenter highlighted the problem of plastics in the world's oceans that they set up a social media group, #doitfordavid.

In the past few weeks they have organised litter picks both in Oswestry and further afield on Welsh beaches. They have even helped write a Do it for David song.

On Saturday they and other volunteers will hold a plastic awareness day on stall on Oswestry market, in conjunction with the town council.

Mandy, a teacher at Oswestry School, said: "We will be giving people ideas on how to reduce their plastic consumption, handing out leaflets on recycling and selling beeswax wraps and are hoping to source some children's books about plastic pollution.

"There will be some children's art activities and face-painting from about 11.30am and around midday I am hoping that the chapel choir from Oswestry School will come to sing our new Do it for David song."

More information is available at www.doitfordavid.org.uk

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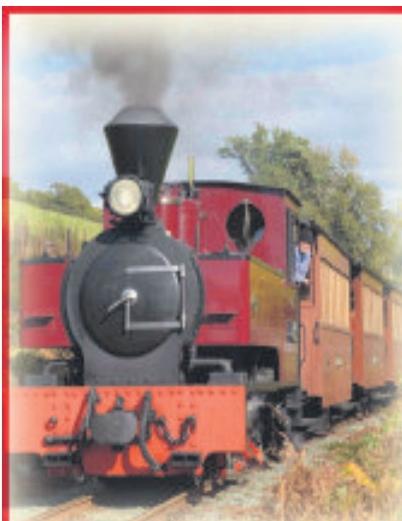
Theatre show is a right farce



The cast from The Atfield Theatre's next production gets set to take to the stage. THE Atfield Theatre's plans for its final production of the season are an absolute

scend on a shabby country house hotel to recover some loot stashed by an accomplice from a previous robbery. To help them they spring a man called Mr Spook from prison.

The cast has had intensive rehearsals before the play is staged from Monday to Saturday next week at 7.45pm each night. Tickets priced £8 can be obtained from the company's box office at The Guildhall.



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Letters

Right to buy consequences are clear

THE disastrous 'right to buy' social housing was a key Conservative policy in the 80s: populist, profitable, and with its disastrous effects clearly on show now.

A housing crisis built by Thatcher and revived by the coalition government and compounded by the current government.

Tory Minister Sajid Javid's department for Housing, Communities and Local Government has returned £292m of funding over two years it said was "no longer re-

quired" in 2016-18. Javid's department also surrendered £379m for the government's flagship starter homes schemes over the course of two years.

The total amount of the housing budget allocated but not used by the government now stands at £1.1bn.

Most of the money was supposed to have been spent on affordable housing and will instead be used to support the 'help to buy' programme which of course completely

misses the poorest citizens in need of homes. We now rely on private developers not local authorities to deliver affordable homes.

Time to vote out a government with no answers on housing and vote in a new government that has pledged to build council and housing association homes which would be "for rent and totally affordable".

JANET COBB
Edgton

Questions about how trade deals will affect our UK agriculture

THE main objective of Brexit has been to break free of restrictive legislation with a "bonfire of red tape".

We would then be free to enter into trade deals under the assumption that these would be beneficial to ourselves and the other party.

It has never been entirely clear what these trade deals would consist of and there is no guarantee that they would prove to be beneficial to us. Many of these deals have proved disastrous to one or both parties in the past.

One area of vital importance to Shropshire is agriculture and this would form a key part of any deal with the US. There are areas of American agriculture that would prove difficult in any such deal. The Americans favour large scale intensive operations and the search to increase profitability goes beyond simply having a bigger operation.

They have CAFOs, concentrated feedlot operations of up to 36,000 animals in one intensive operation. The UK's largest CAFO has only 3,000. The US animals are apparently fed hormones to improve milk yield or bulk up muscles in beef. This can have the effect of reducing the quality of the product in terms of nutrition. The intensive conditions also require antibiotics which create problems.

At the moment American producers are lobbying Trump to come up with a trade deal which would allow them to introduce such product to the UK market obviously at a price far below what UK farmers can produce at. At the same time, Government is telling our farmers to introduce more humane methods of farming to qualify for subsidy. Quite how the two areas are linked I do not know? Or is just a case of dropping subsidies under cover of animal welfare?

ROBIN LLOYD
Ellesmere

Not actions of NHS lovers

PEOPLE'S ability to rewrite history without taking account of the facts and reality never ceases to amaze me.

The Tory party of the time may have paid lip service to the idea of a free NHS, but the reality proves that after a number of years in power they did not make any moves towards creating anything like a NHS. Indeed, their every move has been to try to dismantle the NHS by systematically withholding funds from it. Nationally they have cut the NHS budget by £22 billion whilst reducing its budget in Shropshire by £130 million. These are not the actions of a group dedicated to providing universal health care for all.

PETER HARRISON
Wellington

Llandudno – Jewel of North Wales

Llandudno is Wales's largest resort, uniquely situated between the Great and Little Ormes with two wonderful beaches. Llandudno has kept its Victorian and Edwardian elegance and splendour, despite its modern attractions. The Great Orme has an 112-year-old tramway or you can soar to the summit on Britain's longest cable car and enjoy stunning views all the way to the Lake District.

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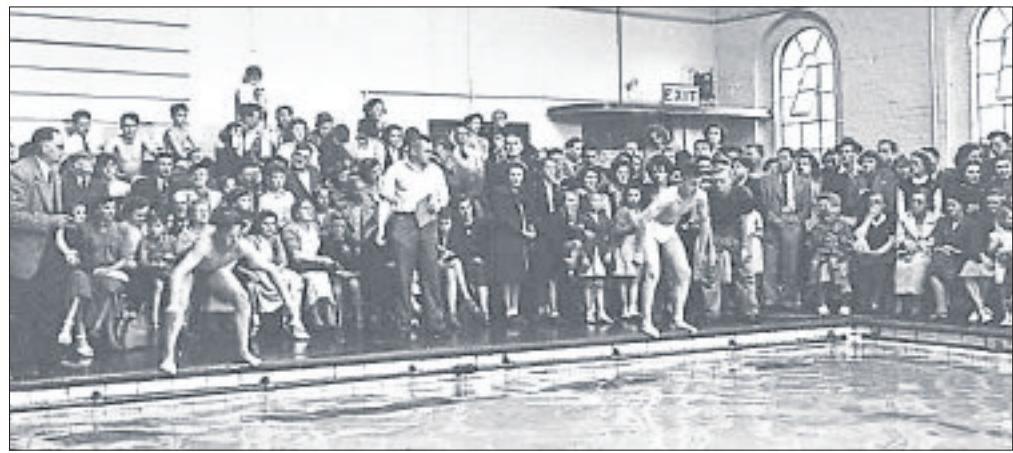
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Swimmers get on their marks at pool gala



These competitors were about to dive in at a swimming gala at Oswestry swimming pool in 1950. This picture is from the Geoff Charles Collection held at the National Library of Wales. Charles was a photographer based in Oswestry at the time.

Must be time to think again over impact of Brexit

BREXIT Impact Studies, prepared by the government, released to MPs and leaked to the press reveal that every area of the UK will suffer a decline in GDP, resulting in a decline in living standards.

In the West Midlands this decline is predicted to be at best 2.5 per cent if the UK stays in the single market but up to a 13 per cent decline with a hard Brexit. The report also stated that the retail sector could see its costs rise by 20 per cent after Brexit with food prices rising by 16 per cent. The effects of Brexit will be diverse but the economic effects will impact every one of us and on that front the message is crystal clear: if Brexit goes ahead we will be worse off. Every living former prime minister, both Conservative and Labour, has spoken out against Brexit and John Major described it as being an act of, "economic self harm." It is time to think again and above all for individuals to make their views known to their MP so that the MP can act in the interests of his own constituents.

C JENKINS
Shrewsbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
The Chronicle,
14 Salop Road,
Oswestry, SY11 2NU

EMAIL

iain.stjohn@
shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Diesel panic's adverse effect

I READ in the Shropshire Star, that new diesel cars will attract a special tax of £500.

What a great idea.

To avoid it, people will just delay changing their older, more polluting vehicles, for nice cleaner new ones. Or, just buy petrol powered ones, if they can afford them, which do fewer miles per gallon and produce more carbon dioxide.

It is worthy of note the panic caused by the government, has actually resulted in a rise in CO2 for the first time in years.

PETER CARTLEDGE
Tetchill

New council car park is not the long term answer

SHROPSHIRE Council wants to build a new car park next to Shirehall.

This will be very expensive and would be another loss of green space and amenity land in Shrewsbury.

It is also unnecessary.

The council appears to be unaware of what the private sector does in these circumstances, and it is called "travel planning".

At successful job creating sites under pressure for car parking, like Milton Park just outside Oxford with 9,000 jobs, you can see smart private sector thinking at work. The companies work very hard to persuade people not to commute by car. They put in place attractive bike sharing, car sharing and public transport and succeed in reducing parking pressure.

Shropshire Council prefers to spend a lot of money and put tarmac down, and not follow smart thinking, and not act to cut carbon emissions.

PROFESSOR JOHN WHITELEGG
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Spiritual centre set to meet up

MEMBERS of Oswestry Spiritual Centre welcome Wendy Watkins as their guest medium for their clairvoyant demonstration night this evening (Thursday).

The meeting takes place in the Cambrian Room in the Memorial Hall in Oswestry. The event runs from 7.30pm to 9pm and doors open at 7pm. The cost is £3.50.

Val Laundy from the group said: "There are free spiritual and reiki healing sessions available after the demonstration. Come along and see how Wendy brings messages from friends and loved ones from the world of spirit to assure us that life continues but only in another dimension."

Council to act on radon alert

POWYS County Council will carry out a monitoring and remediation programme after it was found properties could have a level of the radioactive gas radon.

The gas is the second largest cause of lung cancer in the UK and figures from Public Health England in 2017 found that more than 5,000 properties in Powys could contain levels of it.

A total of 218 homes in Montgomeryshire were found to have a 10 to 30 per cent probability of having the gas with 484 in total across Powys.

In total, 5,374 homes in the region were found to have a probability of between less than one per cent and 30 per cent.

A report that went before the council's cabinet proposed to implement a three phase monitoring programme over an eight-year period in all council owned properties identified in Public Health England's postcode search with a likelihood of five per cent or greater.



David Davies, James Bond, Amber and Vince Hunt and rotary district governor Beryl Cotton



Beryl Cotton, Denzil Ellis and David Davies at the charter night

Big birthday bash!

MEMBERS of Oswestry Rotary Club have celebrated the organisation's 89th birthday.

The club marked the occasion at a charter night held at the Wynnstay Hotel.

Joined by special guests Oswestry Town Mayor Vince Hunt and his daughter Amber, his Mayoress, the evening celebrated some of the club's most significant events.

Events recognised during the evening included LifeLine, the annual event for 500 or so Year 6 pupils to help them deal with the problems that may be encountered as they move up to secondary school.

Competitions such as Youth Speaks, the public speaking competition where Oswestry School students have enjoyed

Report by Jonny Drury

success recently, including being crowned national winners in 2017, was also recognised.

The Tree of Light Appeal which has raised around £6,000 for local charities each year for the last couple of years was also highlighted.

Rotary District 1180 Governor Beryl Cotton was also there to celebrate.

She was delighted to present a Paul Harris Fellowship (PHF) Award to member Mike Griffiths in recognition to his service to the club and in particular community services.

Beryl said: "A PHF is a tremendous honour for Mike to receive but tonight we also

saw the award of a Sapphire Paul Harris Award to Denzil Ellis – his second award – which recognises not only over 35 years' rotary service but, in particular, his dedicated behind the scenes work on the Tree of Light Appeal.

"Totally unexpected and well deserved both."

The evening was hosted by club president David Davies who had invited BBC Radio presenter James Bond to be the guest speaker.

David said: "I was delighted that James could be with us tonight.

"He is always a keen supporter of events and groups in Oswestry.

"It was great to have James and all our guests with us this evening."



Mike Griffiths, David Davies and Beryl Cotton

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Colour run to replace half marathon at visitor site

A HALF marathon that attracted 1,000 runners in its inaugural year has been cancelled in favour of another charity run.

The British Ironwork Centre hosted the Oswestry Half Marathon last year which was a great success as runners left the ironworks site, ran into the town and back to the site on the edge of Oswestry. This year's event was thrown into doubt after the organisers pulled out and centre chairman Clive Knowles was left looking for another partner. After striking up a deal with new organisers Mr Knowles has decided to put the event on the back seat in favour of a new colour run event.

Mr Knowles said: "I was faced with a question of did I want two half decent events or one huge event."

"We've decided to put the half marathon on the back seat this year."

"We have a partner and I can assure people we will be looking at bringing it back next year."

"We have so much going on that we wanted to focus all our energy on the colour run and now tickets are sold out and it is set to be a huge event."

"So to assure everyone we will bring the half marathon back but it won't be going ahead this year."

Mr Knowles's new event is a three kilometre colour run around the ironworks site to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The event on July 1 will see the Shropshire Girl Guides attending to throw colours over people for the run. Already 1,000 people have signed up with places all sold out. Mr Knowles added: "All the money raised will go to the charity, and it is already sold out which is fantastic, so we are focusing all our energy on this event."

Report by Sue Austin

HOUSEHOLDERS in Oswestry are being plagued with cold callers' promises to mend drives and roofs, clean gutters and do other work following the adverse winter weather conditions.

Oswestry councillors who represent the east of the town have joined forces to urge people to use reputable and recommended tradesmen and women for any work required.

And they have asked residents to keep an eye on vulnerable neighbours.

Councillors John Price and Clare Aspinall said there had been a noticeable spike in the number of people in vans driving around eastern Oswestry knocking on doors and offering to do work.

"My drive is potholed from the winter and I had two chaps in hi-vis arrive at the door saying they had some spare tarmac and could do a deal with me so the tarmac was not wasted," Councillor Aspinall said.

"When I said no they got quite shirty and persistent with me."

Driveways are in bad states at the moment and people could be tempted thinking they will get a cheap job done."

Councillor Price said cold callers often targeted elderly or vulnerable people.

"People should keep an eye on their neighbours and just make sure they are not being pressurised into having something done."

The councillor added: "It is much better to use a local business, one that will give a free quote in advance."

"Recommendation from other people is also a good idea."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trailer stolen in theft at estate

A LARGE trailer was stolen in Oswestry by thieves who hooked it up to a 4x4 vehicle.

The theft happened on the Maesbury Road Industrial Estate in Oswestry.

It happened at about 4pm on April 20 when an Ifor Williams Beavertail, 20ft by 6.5ft, twin axle flatbed trailer was stolen from a unit on the estate.

Police believe it was towed away behind a Land Rover Discovery.

Meanwhile, police officers are also investigating the theft of a lawnmower, set of drills and a black bicycle which were stolen from a garage attached to a house between Weston Rhyn and Gobowen.

Anyone with information is asked to contact West Mercia police on telephone number, 101.

Data protection advice available

BUSINESSES can learn more about new General Data Protection Regulations at an event near Oswestry next week.

Understanding and embracing the GDPR is the title of the workshop to be held at the Sweeney Hotel on Thursday morning next week.

This event aims to help businesses prepare for the realities of the new laws and the measures they can take in the weeks ahead of the May 25 deadline.

Neil Hambley who will run the course said: "It provides an overview of the legislation, and a 'hands-on' approach to data protection, dispelling the myths and emphasising the immediate steps to align and adjust to the new era."

"It is less of a minefield than it may appear." The event is free to eligible businesses located within the Marches area.

Tree of Light funding handed out

Rotary's Tree of Light team Mike Jones, Denzil Ellis and Ian Glenister with Lynsey Kilvert of Hope House and Kiera Thomas

ROTARIANS are backing a fundraising appeal that will help bereaved families cope with the loss of a child.

The Oswestry Rotary Club has given a donation from its Tree of Light campaign to Hope House Children's Hospice for the 'Arthur's Story' appeal.

It was launched by the family of two-year-old Arthur Mullis whose sudden death devastated his parents and older sisters.

Arthur was taken from hospital to the Snowflake Room at the hospice which allows families the time to say goodbye to their loved ones. The hospice wants to raise funding to allow more families to use the facilities and to offer counselling. Rotary Tree of Light organiser Mike Jones said he had enjoyed his visit to Hope House. He said: "I can honestly say the Hope House is not a place of sadness but a place of happiness and comfort."

Receiving the cheque was long term Hope House visitor Kiera Thomas, who needs 24 hour, seven-day-a-week care.

Lynsey Kilvert, Hope House's area fundraiser for Shropshire and Powys, said that when Arthur died three years ago the hospice's team of specialists were able to provide support for his parents and siblings.

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Funding for snow work

LOCAL authorities in Wales will receive £2.5 million Welsh Government funding to offset the cost of dealing with this winter's snow.

Cabinet Secretary for economy and transport Ken Skates said the extreme weather conditions resulted in additional capital and revenue costs for local authorities including that spent on gritting and snow clearance operations and buying salt. Mr Skates said: "As much of the country was blanketed with snow recently, authority staff and contractors worked tirelessly in supporting the travelling public and ensuring our road network remained open as much as possible."

Hall's gardens will be opened

GARDENS at Bodfach Hall in Llanfyllin will be open later this month as part of the National Garden Scheme.

The event will take place on Monday, May 28, between 2pm and 5.30pm.

Visitors will be able to get homemade teas, listen to live music, and view art by students from Llanfyllin High School as well as craft and charity stalls.

The proceeds from the day will be donated to two charities, the Friends of St Myllin's Church and Dolen Ffermio, as well as the charities supported by the National Garden Scheme, including Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie and Parkinson's UK.

People who wish to rent a stall can contact Simon Baynes by e-mailing baynes@bodfach.com or calling 07880 786573.

Fire service in move to reduce road collisions

Report by Jonny Drury

DRIVERS are being targeted by the fire service in a bid to cut down on the number of crashes.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service said it was now responding to significantly more crashes than fires and has made a move to change the behaviour of drivers on roads across the area.

A corporate plan report has stated that casualty reduction targets across Wales are not being met.

The report says: "We deal with the consequences of road traffic collisions (RTCs) and the impact they have on human life and our communities on a daily basis as we rescue significantly more injured people from RTCs than from fires."

"Education and intervention is key to reducing the number of RTCs on our roads and the service has a shared role in delivering this along with other road safety partners."

The report also says that the service will work with two other fire authorities on a road safety strategy that will run until 2020.

Targets for the plan over the next year include delivering activities to improve the safety of motorcyclists on roads by encouraging people to take motorcycle safety courses, developing a road safety young intervention course, and to target road safety education activities and intervention for older drivers.

Off-duty firefighters save two men



Matt Roberts and Ben Astley saved two men while they were off duty

TWO off-duty firefighters saved the lives of two men when they noticed a fire in a chip shop in a seaside town.

Matt Roberts and Ben Astley from Welshpool were travelling to a training day when they stopped for breakfast in Aberystwyth on Monday.

After dialling 999 they broke into the Express Fish and Chip Shop and rescued two residents who are thought to have lived on the first floor of the takeaway. While Mr Roberts tackled the blaze with a fire extinguisher, Mr Astley led the pair out of the smoke-filled shop. An Aberystwyth fire crew was soon on the scene to ensure the fire was out and the building safe. The firefighters had been on their way to a Swift Water Rescue training day in Llandysul when they stopped in Aberystwyth for a break at 7.15am. A fire service spokesman said: "We have no doubt that the actions of both our firefighters saved the lives of those involved."

The two men, who have been with Welshpool fire service for about five years, carried on south to complete their water training.

Police are praised for investing in workforce

DYFED-POWYS Police has achieved a stamp of approval as a great employer from the global people management body Investors in People.

After a rigorous assessment the force is said to meet standard accreditation – demonstrating commitment to high performance through good people management.

The policing organisation's progress over the past 12 months was dubbed exemplary and changes made were recognised as having a positive impact.

Chief Constable Mark Collins said: "I was so proud to return to Dyfed-Powys Police nearly 18 months ago – the force was in a challenging situation but I was realistic about what needed to be done."

"I was certain that to begin the turn-around our workforce and the inspectorate was telling us they wanted to see, I needed to get out amongst our officers and staff and understand their challenges."

Mr Collins added: "At the root of everything we have achieved together this year has been conversation, openness and honesty."

"We now have a strategy in place which puts the wellbeing of our workforce and developing leadership, at the heart of everything we do."

"According to our most recent staff survey, people are feeling more confident, more able to challenge, more empowered and are listened to."

"What has stood out is the dedication and commitment our officers, staff and volunteers have for the communities they serve."

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Suspended jail term for benefit fraud

A PENSIONER has been handed a suspended prison sentence for false housing benefit claims.

Michael Patrick Clarke, 77, of Lamberts Road, Welshpool, faced two allegations dating back as far as 2009 when he appeared at Welshpool Magistrates Court.

It was alleged that in June 2009, in Welshpool, Clarke gave a dishonest statement to Powys County Council in a housing benefit application, in which he failed to disclose the true extent of his capital savings and investments.

Clarke admitted the charge and he also admitted another like charge from June 2010.

He was given a six-month prison sentence suspended for two years due to the high amount involved and the fact it took place over a long period of time.

He was also ordered by the court to pay £115 costs and an £85 victim surcharge.

Vintage shop fits out movie stars

Report by Sue Austin

IT is a film that is set to be one of the blockbusters of 2018.

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society is based on the Nazi occupation of the Channel Islands in World War Two.

And many of the 1940s costumes for the film were supplied from a vintage shop in Welshpool.

Ashman's Antiques and Old Lace on the High Street in the town is run by Diane Ashman.

She said the set designer for the film, contacted her in February 2017.

"I sourced the 1940s clothing for the film," she said.

Starring Lily James and Michiel Huisman and directed by Mike Newell, the film is based on a book by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Burrows.

It tells the story of members of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Review, the name given to the people who braved the invasion during the war.

Diane, 73, said she was looking forward to seeing the costumes on set and said he had already bought tickets to see the film in Shrewsbury.

She has been working with film companies for almost 30 years.

Others she has worked with supplying vintage clothing included Easy Virtue starring Colin Firth and Birdsong based on a World War One novel.

The former singer and model said she had been interested in costumes from when she had been a child and said all her money then had been spent buying clothes at jumble sales.

She said: "My love of clothes goes back to when I was seven or eight-years-old and dressing up in my mum's clothes."

"She was a dancer and a singer and although she didn't have many clothes, the ones she did have were lovely as

Youth groups to get £33k cash help

COMMUNITY groups providing activities for young people in Shropshire's most rural areas will be able to bid for funding under Shropshire Council's Rural Youth Activity Fund.

A total of £33,000 of funding will be available for youth groups and clubs in the 11 eligible rural local joint committee (LJC) areas.

Each area has been allocated £3,000 to put towards activities that will make a difference to the lives of young people.

Two funding rounds will be open from now until May 20 and from October 15 to November 12.

The eligible rural areas include St Oswald and Llanymynech near Oswestry. Nick Bardsley, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for children's services, said: "I'm delighted that the council is able to make this funding available for young people living in our most rural areas."

The funding has previously been used for a range of activities - youth

Band boosted by funding

A GRANT from the Mary Hignett Bequest Fund has helped members of the Porthywaen Silver Band to purchase soft gig bags for transporting their instruments safely to and from venues.

In particular the old hard case for the oversized BBBb bass tuba has been replaced with a soft version.

"The BBB flat bass instrument is one of the largest played by the band and, due to its size, it is very difficult to put in a normal estate car in its hard case so the existing instrument could be damaged as it is often transported by car without a case," said band secretary Susan Sharp.

Author Mary Hignett left half of her estate to the Rotary Club of Oswestry to award grants to sports and arts projects in the Oswestry area.

Applications are invited and received in autumn each year with awards paid out over the following months. Ad hoc applications are considered if the funds are available. For further details see rotarycluboswestry.co.uk and search for Mary Hignett.

For information about the silver band visit its Facebook page.



Members of the Porthywaen Silver Band, from left, Dirk Commerford, Bethan Jones and Barbara Bridgwater

NEWS IN BRIEF

Teams invited to show knowledge

A QUIZ evening will take place at the Church House in Welshpool on May 25 at 7.30pm.

Doors open at 7pm.

Teams of four or six players are welcome at £2 per person, organisers have said.

Refreshments will be served at half time.

Patrons are reminded to bring their own drinks.

Eyes down for prize bingo fun

AN evening of prize bingo will take place next week.

The fun takes place in the Corn Exchange in Welshpool.

The bingo takes place on Tuesday next week.

It's eyes down at 7pm and doors open at 6.30pm.

Admission is £1 to include half time refreshments.



Ashman's Antiques and Old Lace in Welshpool is run by Diane Ashman

they were presents to her from Ivor Novello, the Welsh composer and actor, for her work as a ladies' maid.

"I knew from an early age that one day I would have my own shop and after working in markets, found one in Portsmouth in 1971.

"I borrowed £35 from the bank and started a shop in Portsmouth's Historic Dockyard where dockyard men passing through could get boots and

shirts. I got to know Welshpool after coming here on holiday here for many years and one day I opened my caravan door and popped a pin on a map to decide where we would live.

"I have now been in Welshpool for 25 years, with my family.

"I am blessed and feel my shop is somewhere that people can call for a chat and a coffee - even if they don't buy anything."

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12 County scores well in terms of 'vibrancy'

SHROPSHIRE is in the top 10 vibrant areas within the region, according to a new report – although Telford & Wrekin fares less well.

The county came in at number seven in a list of West Midlands economies marked on six criteria by financial adviser Grant Thornton – beating Coventry and Solihull.

The Vibrant Economy Index ranks 324 local authority areas across England against six performance indicators including 'prosperity', 'inclusion and equality' and 'community, trust and belonging'.

Places were measured by key factors in each of the six performance indicators and awarded an overall 'vibrancy' score, with 100 being the national average.

Shropshire is seventh in the West Midlands and 126th in England, with a score of 100.67 meaning it was slightly higher than the average. Telford & Wrekin sits at 219 nationally, with a score of 98.25.

Shropshire performs particularly well for high recycling rates at 54.6 per cent. But for prosperity and community, trust and belonging it ranks below the national average.

Telford & Wrekin ranks below the national average in three of the performance baskets. However, it ranks above the national average for prosperity, as well as resilience and sustainability.

Water firm signs up to work charter

WATER company Severn Trent, which serves millions of customers in the Midlands and Wales, has signed up to the TUC's Dying to Work charter which aims to protect employees with a terminal diagnosis.

The campaign was launched two years ago by Jacci Woodcock, who is from Derbyshire, with support from Mid Derbyshire MP Pauline Latham. Jacci has been campaigning for a change in the law to protect employees with a terminal diagnosis.

Liv Garfield, Severn Trent chief executive, said: "It's incredibly important to support any colleagues who have received such devastating news – no-one should have to worry about keeping their job if they have a terminal diagnosis and that's why we were more than happy to sign up to the charter."

"Whether a colleague wants to reduce their hours or work normally for as long as possible, it's vital that they can expect the help and support of their employer which is exactly what we intend to offer at Severn Trent." Jacci began her campaign for a change in the law after she claims she was forced out of her job when she was told she had stage four incurable breast cancer.

"From my own experiences, I know just how important it is that everyone should be given the choice of whether they want to carry on at work and, if they do, for as long as they want," said Jacci. "I'd just like to thank Severn Trent for joining the other companies that have already signed up to the charter."

Bullying and fraud claims rejected

AN investigation into allegations of bullying and fraud at a housing association that serves 1,600 homes has ended.

A whistleblower made the allegations against Mid Wales Housing Association, which serves Powys and Ceredigion, before Christmas.

Darwin Gray solicitors from Cardiff were appointed to investigate the allegations.

The inquiry has ended and in statement Mid Wales Housing has said that no evidence was found of there being a culture or climate of bullying or specific bullying behaviour.

Further allegations were made regarding the "fraudulent exploitation of the expenses process and allegations that the executive team had misled or withheld information from the board". However, these claims were rejected following the investigation. A spokesman for Mid Wales Housing said: "Mid Wales Housing is determined to learn from this experience."

"The three detailed reports made several observations and recommendations for sensible improvements to strengthen policies and practices."

Children's centres could be axed under new plans to shake up council services

Report by Jordan Reynolds

CHILDREN'S centres across Shropshire are under threat, with services at 20 centres set to be withdrawn.

Shropshire Council plans to save £875,000 by reducing the services from 26 different buildings to six in a new delivery model for Early Help services.

There will be a "small number" of compulsory redundancies if the plan goes ahead, along with voluntary redundancies, council officials said.

The Early Help Family Hubs proposed to be retained are at Richmond House in Shrewsbury, Crowmoor in Shrewsbury, The Centre in Oswestry, Rockspring Community Centre in Ludlow and one in Whitchurch and one in Bridgnorth at locations yet to be identified.

The services are intended to be a one-stop shop for all children under five and their families. They include coffee mornings to drop-in and social events.

Now the plan aims to support a wider range of children and young people up to the age of 19, and up to 25 for children with disabilities or a special educational need.

The initial idea went out to consultation in February.

Karen Bradshaw, director of children's services at the council, said that the six buildings will be family hubs which will also act as children's centres.

She said: "The consultation responses were positive about the integration into getting support in a single place."

"There were some concerns around the drop-in stay and play and parenting programmes."

"We want to focus the resources rather than focus on the number of buildings that aren't used that much, now we won't be paying the rent and running costs."

"It's not that all of these services aren't being delivered anymore, they're being delivered in another way."

"Clearly there will be some impact on sessions as they will be reduced, but there ought to be ample access available. The majority of the centres will be transferred to the schools

they are with or private providers will continue to use them. The council needs to balance its budget this year and in future years."

Councillor Nick Bardsley, cabinet member for children's services, said it is about spending less on buildings and more on "front-line services". "It makes no sense to spend a lot of money on buildings that are partially used," he added. "This has been very carefully researched but I'm sure there are things that are going to need to change. Yes there will be job losses, but very few. We've been talking about this for nine months, but there will be a very small number of compulsory redundancies at the end of the day."

The report was due to go to cabinet this week, and if approved, out to consultation.

Steps being taken to recoup £80k from club, meeting told

Report by Aimee Jones

SHROPSHIRE Council is taking steps to recover an £80,000 grant from The New Saints Football Club.

It comes after a two-month investigation into whether the club wrongly failed to pay back the money to Oswestry Town Council.

The Welsh Premier champions were given a legacy grant from Shropshire Council in 2011 to build new seating at their Park Hall ground to allow them to play in European competitions.

However, private investigator Paul Wiseman alleged the club had failed to pay back £16,000 a year for five years.

In a letter to the town council earlier this month, Mr Wiseman said: "As a council tax payer of Oswestry, I am formally asking that Oswestry Town Council instruct their legal team to recover the monies owed."

Oswestry Town Council have a duty to safeguard the interests of Oswestry tax payers and not the sensibilities of Shropshire Council."

But at a special meeting of the town council on Wednesday last week, Town Clerk David Preston revealed Shropshire Council has now started taking steps to recoup the money.

Agreement

When the £80,000 was awarded the agreement was that the club could be asked to pay back the money under certain conditions in the form of agreed grants from January 2013 to the Oswestry Joint Economic Board which would identify projects in the town.

Councillor Duncan Kerr said: "This whole issue is rather troubling to us. We have still not seen a copy of the agreement between TNS and Shropshire Council. They owe it to us to give us a copy of it because this whole thing sullies our reputation." A condition was that the club would be involved in discussions to review funding applications to the board.

Initially the board did not include the football club, which was in the terms of the grant agreement, and went on to approve schemes.

However despite not being involved, the club agreed to reimburse the council on the understanding they would be involved in a more active role. Councillor Kerr also said as part of the agreement, schools in the Oswestry area should have been allowed to use the facilities at the club's base, Park Hall, free of charge.

Members agreed to write to all the local schools informing them of the agreement.

TNS denies any wrongdoing.

Talented students recognised for writing skills



Abigail Ellis-Lowe and Erin Thorpe-Downey were presented with their certificates by rotary president Sherie Soper and rotarian Peter Martin

FOR the third year running a pupil from Oswestry School has won The John Cranwell Trophy in this year's Oswestry Borderland Rotary Young Writers Competition.

Year 8 pupil Abigail Ellis-Lowe has been awarded first prize along with a trophy with Sixth Form pupil Erin Thorpe-Downey receiving a second place certificate.

The late rotarian John Cranwell was a founder member of Borderland Rotary and for

many years an antique bookseller trading as "Bookworld" in Beatrix Street, Oswestry.

After his death in 2014, members of Borderland Rotary in Oswestry decided that, in keeping with John's passion for the literary arts, a fitting memorial would be to recognise young people for their creative writing skills and The John Cranwell Young Writer Award was commissioned.

This annual trophy is presented for the best

submission to Borderland Rotary Club in the local round of Rotary's Young Writer Competition.

The first winner in 2015 was Jenny Cyfin-Jones and last year's winner was Rachel Roberts, both girls hailing from Oswestry School.

The certificates and trophy were presented by Oswestry Borderland Rotary president Sherie Soper and rotarian Peter Martin.

New partner starts at law firm to help expansion

A NEW partner has started work at an Oswestry law firm – expanding its commercial and agricultural property operation into Wales.

Edward Nutting, who has taken up his new post with Lanyon Bowdler, is a fluent Welsh speaker and will work from the firm's Oswestry office, as well as a newly leased meeting room in Conwy.

The move will see Lanyon Bowdler working with more clients in the Oswestry area and Mid and North Wales.

Formerly head of agriculture at Hibberts

LLP, Edward's appointment sees Lanyon Bowdler's list of partners expand to 27.

"I am looking forward to the new challenge and helping new and existing clients in an area I know extremely well," he said.

"Lanyon Bowdler is seeing an increase in demand for commercial and agricultural property services and already has a successful team working out of the Oswestry office.

"I am delighted to be joining that team and working closely with my new colleagues as we look to continue to provide professional advice

to farmers, landowners and rural businesses. There is a vast area to cover across North and Mid Wales and the offering of meeting facilities in Conwy as well as taking on a fluent Welsh speaker shows Lanyon Bowdler's commitment to the clients we serve.

"Having the option of a Welsh speaker can only help to put some clients more at ease in dealing with their legal requirements, and I look forward to continuing the high standards of service Lanyon Bowdler is known for."

"I have had a good grounding in commercial

and agricultural property, with nine years experience, and have a strong interest in the law relating to the countryside."

"I've a good understanding of rural issues and am a member of the NFU, FWU and CLA which will help in advising clients and looking after their interests."

Brian Evans, managing partner at Lanyon Bowdler, said: "We already have a good client base in Wales and we have got to the stage where we needed to expand our team further to cope with demand."

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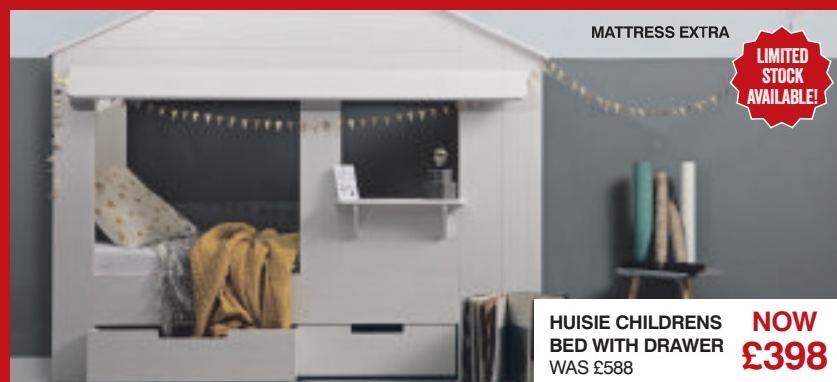
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14 Shropdoc keeps its Powys GP contract for now

SHROPODOC will continue to provide out-of-hours GP services in Powys until at least the end of September.

It had been announced that the car group's contract would end on March 31 and be replaced by the NHS 111 Wales service.

The 111 service is supposed to provide a "one-stop shop" that combines GP out-of-hours with the NHS Direct Wales service.

It had been expected to start in Powys on April 1.

It has now been delayed by several months.

A spokesman for Powys Teaching Health Board said: "We are delighted to have agreed an extension of our contract with Shropdoc until the end of September."

"Alongside this we will continue to work with Shropdoc, and with the Clinical Commissioning Groups in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, to develop the future approach to out-of-hours for the people of Powys."

Shropdoc chairman Dr Russell Muirhead said: "We see Powys as a key part of the service and we are proud to have an excellent relationship with the Powys Teaching Health Board."

The doctor added: "We are working closely with them on a number of potential longer term projects."

Homes clarity is welcomed by architect

AN architect has welcomed the adoption of a plan that outlines the need to build 4,500 homes in Powys over the next eight years.

Powys County Council has now adopted its local development plan which identifies how land in the county is set to be used for residential, economic and social development, allocating land to specific needs.

Before 2026, 4,500 homes need to be built with almost 1,000 of them being affordable houses.

Doug Hughes, of Hughes Architects, which operates through Mid Wales, has welcomed the decision to finally implement a blueprint for planning, to allow developers to know where they can and cannot develop land.

He said: "The adoption of the LDP provides clarity and direction for planners, landowners, developers and others involved in planning in Powys."

"It has been a long time coming, but now, finally, we can see county-wide where targeted and appropriate developments can take place."

"It's important for everyone involved in planning, including the communities where such developments are needed, to have criteria set out that commits to bringing forward the required number of homes needed in Powys over the next eight years, along with key commercial and industrial sites. We are working with a number of developers on small and large developments and the adoption of the LDP allows us to move forward with confidence."

Film company hosts workshop

A FILM-making company recently held a successful workshop in Oswestry.

Rocking Horse Studios held the workshop at the Memorial Hall with the aim of teaching locals about life on set and how to work together as part of a film crew.

A wide range of individuals from different ages, experiences and backgrounds attended the event. One willing volunteer had been waiting three years for the chance to work with Rocking Horse Studios again.

Leigh Roberts said: "In 2015 I became aware of RHS and their work through a local organisation and I became inspired by the project they were working on."

"So I decided to support them and have done ever since, waiting for an opportunity to work with them again."

The workshop resulted in a number of local people becoming part of the crew for Oswestry's first feature film shoot this summer, including Leigh.

The film, Run For Your Life, will be an anti-bullying film which raises awareness of autism and the power of friendship.

People who would like to join the team can call 07488 340440.

Parish and town councils must support their principal authorities, says mayor

PARISH and town councils should support their principal local authorities that are struggling with cuts in funding from Government, Oswestry's mayor has said.

Mayor Vince Hunt said throughout the year the town council had worked closely with with Shropshire Council.

"All principal councils are experiencing difficult times in terms of finance and their funding from Government," he said.

"Across England and Wales there is a real requirement for parish and town councils to support their principal councils, particularly as many discretionary services are being lost.

"An obvious example of this is our willingness to help fund youth activities in Oswestry for 2018."

Report by Sue Austin

ident of the Society of Local Council Clerks," he added.

"The influence of the council is also shown in the fact that Oswestry now has a Business Improvement District which will generate £1.4 million of new money over the next five years.

"That initiative was facilitated by the town council which also gave a substantial grant and loan."

Councillor Hunt said the council was currently negotiating a new Christmas lights contract for a three year period from 2019.

"We have taken more market activities into the street. We still have some way to go yet but it has been essential to retain our market tradition and to look at alternative ways of delivering this historic form of retailing activi-

ty within Oswestry," he said. "The Oswestry Youth Music Festival goes from success to success while Oswestry Christmas Live and the Christmas Light switch-on were tremendous examples of the community celebrating together."

The mayor said he was looking forward to the Oswestry Balloon Carnival working with Lindstrand, Cloud 9 Balloons and Market Place Europe for the August Bank Holiday weekend.

He said: "We are putting together a programme that supports Nightingale House to provide a weekend of activities over the August Bank Holiday. We are looking forward to the sight of 35 hot air balloons taking off from Cae Glas Park, a huge Continental Market, and music all around the streets of Oswestry."

Trail initiative is aimed at building healthier future

Report by Sue Austin

AN ancient town is re-inventing itself as somewhere to keep healthy and have fun.

Montgomery is launching a series of trails over the May bank holiday weekend aimed at all ages and abilities.

Money for the project in the historic Welsh border town has come from an award of £5,000 from Big Lottery's Awards for All.

The Montgomery Trails include two family-friendly quiz trails for younger and older children, four walking trails devised by the local Walkers are Welcome Group, four cycling trails and a Heritage Town Trail.

Organisers say the aim of the Montgomery 'Healthy Life Town' Trails project is to develop a network of accessible trails to promote health and wellbeing for everyone, while introducing walkers and cyclists to the town's history and surrounding countryside.

Walkers are Welcome, the Vale of Montgomery Rural Cluster of Councils and Powys Countryside Services have jointly created a volunteer group to improve the local footpath network.

Accessible

Lesley Long, Destination Montgomery's development officer, said: "Because walks don't stop at boundaries between councils, the volunteers are collaborating with other groups, such as Walking Newtown, to extend accessible walks in the future."

The trails will be launched at the Town Hall at 11 am on Saturday where activities will include a Destination Montgomery Information Point stocked with trail guides and What's On in Montgomery 2018 leaflets - free to visitors and residents.

There will also be a Civic Society guide-led Heritage Town Trail starting at noon from the Town Hall.

"Walkers keen to tackle the walking trails will have the opportunity to join with others at regular times throughout the day to walk a self-guided trail, starting from the Tan y Murllyn car park," Lesley said.

Cyclists wishing to ride the cycling trails can use their own bikes or hire adult bicycles from the Dragon Hotel.

Lesley added: "The two family-friendly quiz trails are pushchair friendly. Follow the Town of Little Cars Trail to find the names of 14 little cars hidden around the town. Or, test your detective and observation skills to solve the clues on the Historic Town Quiz Trail."

Rotary cash supports connection programme



Connect for Life volunteers Carolyn Lewis and Pauline Abbotts with rotarians Mike Jones, Denzil Ellis, and Dave Davies

MEMBERS of Oswestry Rotary Club made an award from their Tree of Light Appeal 2017 to purchase equipment for the Connect for Life group recently.

Connect for Life provides a day support service for older people, particularly those with memory loss or dementia where they can meet others and build connections by offering a wide variety of stimulating activities in a safe, welcoming and caring environment.

"The group has gone from strength to strength since it started back in autumn 2016," said appeal organiser Mike Jones.

Given the 'outstanding' rating and the remaining two were deemed 'good'. The report said:

"Staff treated people with the utmost dignity and respect, and supported them to remain as independent as possible to enable them to continue living in their own homes. People were supported to follow their interests and to maintain links with family and the local community."

At the last inspection, the service was rated good overall with an outstanding in the caring key question.

"Now they are able to run two sessions per week."

Group volunteers Carolyn Lewis and Pauline Abbotts brought some of their new equipment to a rotary meeting to show what had been bought.

"We get a lot of use out of games such as dominoes and noughts and crosses."

"Both stimulate the memory and create laughter - a bit of competition can be very good for you and our members feel better about themselves," said Pauline.

"We didn't bring along the percussion set

but music and singing is also excellent therapy for our members."

Connect for Life meets between 10.30am and 2.30pm on Wednesdays at Gatacre Pavilion and now Thursdays at the York Fields Community Room where drinks and a two course lunch are provided, as well as a wide variety of activities and games appropriate for different levels of abilities, for £10 per session.

People can find out more by visiting the group's website at www.connectforlife.co.uk, by email on connectforlife@hotmail.com or calling 07582 207972.

Care staff 'go above and beyond' for their clients

CARERS in Oswestry go "above and beyond" for their clients, a health watchdog has said.

Andrew Harris, chief executive of Allenby Douglas, said it is a proud moment for the company.

The service, which provides care at home, was visited by inspectors from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in January this year.

The report said clients were well protected against the risk of abuse and added that staff were punctual and reliable.

Out of the five areas inspected, three were

given the 'outstanding' rating and the remaining two were deemed 'good'. The report said: "Staff treated people with the utmost dignity and respect, and supported them to remain as independent as possible to enable them to continue living in their own homes. People were supported to follow their interests and to maintain links with family and the local community."

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It continued: "People continued to receive a service which was highly caring. People and their relatives found staff to be extremely caring and kind. Relatives described the care and support their family members received at the end of their life as exceptional."

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Cancer patients' activity project is relaunched

A PROGRAMME to help cancer sufferers keep active has now been relaunched after partnering with a Shropshire-based charity.

The Lingen Davies Cancer Fund pledged more than £240,000 to fund the Shropshire Council's Get Active, Feel Good programme.

The programme supports people with cancer to feel better through increasing their levels of physical activity.

It has been operating since 2012. It's current funding, thanks to a partnership with Macmillan Cancer, was due to come to an end.

Naomi Atkin, Lingen Davies' executive officer, said: "There's a lot of evidence that shows getting active and moving around a little bit more can improve how people feel during cancer treatment."

"This is an area of services that we're increasingly needing. The clinical treatment that people receive in Shropshire is really excellent, and we're still funding significant equipment and other things discussed on direct treatment."

"People really want to do something that makes them feel back to normal after they've had their treatment."

"Beyond that, support over the longer term is where more is needed, and the programme has been really successful so far."

Patients will get access to an expert in cancer and physical exercise as part of the programme.

They will be able to get advice and support in how much is too much, and what activity they will be able to take part in.

They will also get advice on when they may need to rest as part of the 12 months of support.

Party time for 70th celebration

BUBBLE football, a Nerf gun arena, Army medics, music and food, including a barbecue provided by Rapid Relief Team – these are just some of the attractions that will greet visitors to a charity fun day which will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the NHS.

The event, which will also feature a 5km charity fun run, will be held at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (RSH) on July 7, just two days after the NHS big birthday.

The NHS turns 70 on July 5, making it the perfect opportunity to celebrate the achievements of one of the nation's most loved institutions and to thank the extraordinary NHS staff.

The fun day, which is being organised by The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (STH), will feature a host of events. Julia Clarke, director of corporate governance at STH, which runs RSH and the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford, said: "Our plans to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the NHS are coming together very nicely."

The day will also see the unveiling of a sculpture being created by British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry. It will take the form of a heart, using old pieces of equipment that can no longer be used or repaired.

Pledges are made in care campaign

STAFF at Shropshire's two main hospitals have made pledges to improve patient care.

Doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, which runs Telford's Princess Royal Hospital and The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital, made the pledges as part of Experience of Care Week.

Those making pledges as part of the campaign have included Karen Breese, dementia clinical specialist, who said: "To help improve patient care I pledge to develop pop-up dementia-friendly cafes at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital."

Hannah Roy, governance membership manager, added: "To help improve patient care I pledge to support people to become volunteers at our hospitals."

Hugely popular biking event raises more than £87,000 for air ambulance organisation

A HUGE biking event raised more than £87,000 for the Midlands Air Ambulance charity.

More than 5,000 bikers took part in the eighth annual 23-mile route from Meole Brace in Shrewsbury to RAF Cosford.

The Bike4Life Ride Out and Festival helped to raise an incredible £87,770 for the Midlands Air Ambulance which will fund 35 future life-saving air ambulance missions.

Superbike champion and racing legend, Carl Fogarty, motorcycle and truck racing legend, Steve Parrish and former England rugby captain and 2003 world cup winner, Mike Tindall MBE, all led the Ride Out which concluded at RAF Cosford for the Bike4Life Festival.

Report by Jonny Drury

The festival, which is supported by the Safer Roads Partnership and TCC Group, entertained bikers and visitors with a host of activities going on throughout the day, including live bands including Epic Volume, 4th Labyrinth, Searching Grey and headline band Redline, along with Jamie Squibb and his team from Nitro Circus presenting a freestyle motocross display.

The aircrew from Midlands Air Ambulance provided simulation displays demonstrating the skills that come into play at the scene of a motorcycle crash and the vital role the charity

plays in saving lives every day. The visitors to the festival also had the opportunity to witness exclusive interviews by BBC radio presenter Phil Upton with VIP guests followed by meet and greets.

With over 20 food vendors, no one was going hungry, with a choice of food from all over the world.

Jason Levy, fundraising and marketing director for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, said: "This amazing event is now in its eighth year, and continues to grow. It is a testament to the fantastic work our staff and volunteers and the incredible support and generosity of the biker community."

"Sadly, Midlands Air Ambulance Charity

airlifts on average one biker every four days, so through the money we raise at Bike4Life every year, we can ensure we continue to provide the life-saving care for years to come."

The event took a year of planning and wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Safer Roads Partnership, Highways England, West Mercia Police, Shropshire Council, ROSPA, Shropshire, Staffordshire & Cheshire Blood Bikes, Raven Riders, Wrexham Riders, Oddballs MCC, Midland Freewheelers, SAMMS, Kelly's Road Sweepers, RAF, Police and Army Cadets, the RAF Museum Cosford and RAF Cosford who gave their time for free. Organisers would also like to thank other local residents and road users for their patience.

Thousands of people 'at risk of getting diabetes'

Report by Lucy Todman

MORE than 15,000 people in Shropshire are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes, it has been revealed.

The county's clinical commissioning group revealed the figures as it urged people to become more active and eat healthily.

The CCG estimates there are potentially 15,065 people in Shropshire who are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Type 2 diabetes is often linked to being overweight or inactive, or having a family history of type 2 diabetes. It can lead to health complications such as strokes, heart disease, limb amputation, and early death.

But type 2 diabetes can be prevented by managing weight and eating healthily as well as being more active.

As part of Diabetes Prevention Week, Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group has called on people to use a new online tool which has been developed.

Dr Julian Povey, clinical chairman of Shropshire CCG, said: "It's important to remember there is no cure for diabetes and it can lead to blindness, kidney failure, and premature death. Type 2 diabetes can be preventable if people take some simple steps before it's too late. Everyone should take the Know your Risk test – it takes minutes, but it could add years to your life."

The survey asks some simple questions and using information on weight and height, calculates what the risk is of someone becoming a type 2 diabetic. It then provides practical advice including recipes and tips as well as identifying the symptoms of diabetes and where to get help.

There are two types of diabetes, type 1 and type 2. About 90 per cent of people with diabetes have type 2 diabetes.

A person with type 1 diabetes, will need to treat the condition with insulin, whereas those with type 2, may initially be able to manage the condition with diet and exercise. Type 1 diabetes is a serious, lifelong condition where the blood glucose level is too high because the body cannot make insulin.

Type 2 diabetes is where the insulin the pancreas makes can't work properly, or the pancreas can't make enough insulin. Some people live with type 2 diabetes for up to 10 years before being diagnosed.

Pharmacist has top tips for hay fever sufferers



Pharmacist Martin Lunt has offered advice to people suffering from hay fever with the weather warming up and summer on the way

A PHARMACIST has warned hay fever sufferers to prepare for the warmer weather and shared his top tips to help beat the condition.

Martin Lunt, who sees hundreds of people each year who struggle through the summer, said hay fever can cause havoc for the estimated one in five suffering with symptoms but added there are ways to reduce the impact.

Mr Lunt, who owns branches of Lunts Pharmacy in Shrewsbury, Craven Arms and Pontesbury, said: "Firstly, it's important to recognise whether you have a cold or hay fever. It's a very common condition but there are many people out there who don't know

they have it, the general rule is if you have a sore throat then it's a cold but if you have itchy eyes, nose and throat then it's more likely to be hay fever."

"We have had a very harsh winter with the flu, and our pharmacies have administered more flu jabs than any winter before, so the last thing people need is a difficult summer suffering with hay fever too."

Symptoms are usually worse when the grass pollen count increases, normally starting at some point between May and the middle of July. The condition is caused when the immune system overreacts to allergens in the

air. Most people react to grass pollen but tree and weed pollens can also cause problems, normally earlier for trees and later for weeds.

He added: "We often see people taking antihistamines before their symptoms start which can help to reduce the severity. It's a must to check with a pharmacist before beginning any medication though."

"Other options can include steroid nasal sprays and anti-inflammatory eye drops which are all available from pharmacies."

Other advice includes changing clothes and showering after being outdoors as pollen sticks to clothing.

Three out of 10 hospitals charge staff to park – figures

THREE out of 10 hospitals charge staff for car parking, new figures show.

Doctors and nurses are expected to pay at 348 out of the 1,175 hospitals with parking facilities, according to NHS data.

The highest average charge for staff is £2 per hour at both the Edgware Community Hospital, north-west London and Birmingham Children's Hospital, analysis by motoring research charity the RAC Foundation revealed.

That is the equivalent of £80 for a 40-hour working week.

The highest average charge for patients is £3.20 per hour at St Thomas' Hospital, central London.

Last month, the leader of Telford & Wrekin Council, Shaun Davies, called on hospital chiefs to refund car parking fees for accident and emergency staff as a gesture of goodwill.

Many hospitals have annual parking permits which are paid from staff wages.

The latest figures show that, overall, motorists have paid more than £1.5 million in car parking charges at Shropshire's two main hos-

pitals in the previous financial year.

About a third of the amount collected by Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust was paid by staff, with the remainder handed over by patients and visitors.

SaTH collected £1,515,578 during 2016/17 slightly less than in 2015/16 when £1,525,640 was collected in parking fees. It was up from £1,289,302 taken in 2013/14. Patients in Shropshire and Mid Wales who use Welsh hospitals do not pay to park.

RAC Foundation director Steve Gooding

said: "Few parking issues are as incendiary as charging people to leave vehicles at hospitals, by their patients, visitors or staff. Many hospitals are on built-up locations, on constrained sites, so some sort of control is inevitable, but this needs to be proportionate and stress free."

"Government guidance encourages hospitals to use pay-on-exit systems. This would at least mean the anxiety associated with a hospital visit is not compounded by paying up front and having to predict how long a visit will last."



Members of Oswestry School Interact Group present the cheque to PDSA education officer Anna Baggott

Animal charity gets cash boost¹⁷

PUPILS from a school have raised more than £1,000 for charity.

Pupils at Oswestry School, led by the Interact team, raised £1,075 for the PDSA (The People's Dispensary for Sick Animals) over the past term.

Founded in 1917 by animal welfare pioneer, Maria Dickin CBE, PDSA is the UK's largest veterinary charity. Operating through a UK-wide network of 48 Pet Hospitals, PDSA provides free veterinary care to the sick and injured pets of people in need and promoted responsible pet ownership.

Oswestry School's Interact Club is the junior branch of the Rotary Club of Oswestry.

Aimed at young people between the ages of 14 and 18, Interact is a fully independent club with an elected committee, run entirely by pupils.

From January to Easter the Interact group organised numerous events in support of the PDSA.

The first fundraiser involved the entire team in a Send a Rose directive where pupils and staff could send a rose to their friends as a token of their

appreciation for each other. Each rose was delivered personally by a member of Interact team, along with a message, on the morning of February 14 and raised £80.

In addition there were bake sales and an own clothes day when pupils from Bellar House had an opportunity to dress up as their pet or favourite animal.

At the senior school pupils wore blue and pink colours to show their support for the charity and across both sites this raised almost £900.

Tributes paid to a 'champion of people'

Report by Dominic Robertson

TRIBUTES have been paid to a woman described as one of Montgomeryshire's "greatest ever champions", and a key political figure in the county.

Lady Shirley Hooson died aged 91 and figures from across the political spectrum have lined up to pay tribute to the former vice chairman of Montgomeryshire District Council.

Lady Hooson, who had also served as mayor of her home town of Llanidloes, was the wife of former Montgomeryshire Liberal MP, Lord Emyl Hooson.

Mr Hooson served as MP for the constituency from 1962 until 1979. In his career as barrister he also represented Ian Brady, one of the Moors murderers, along with Myra Hindley at trial.

Current Montgomeryshire MP and long-time friend of Lady Hooson, Glyn Davies, said she was a woman who gave her life to Llanidloes and Montgomeryshire.

He said: "I first met Shirley Hooson when we were both elected to Montgomeryshire District Council over 40 years ago. She was as determinedly 'Llanidloes' as I was determinedly 'Berriew', which meant it took a while for us to get used to each other. When I became chairman, Shirley became my vice chairman. Our stubbornness meant we disagreed sometimes, but soon became good friends, and remained so until she died. To me she was like family."

"Lady Hooson, and her great late husband Emyl, were wonderful people who gave their lives to Llanidloes and Montgomeryshire. I will always treasure memories of joining her in visiting Emyl towards the end of his life. She was a key support to him throughout his hugely successful political career. Over the last three years, after she had lost her ability to speak, I valued meeting her more than ever. We simply did not need words to communicate."

"Llanidloes and Montgomeryshire has lost one of its greatest ever champions."

Baron Alex Carlile, who was Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomeryshire from 1983 to 1997, said: "I knew Lady Hooson for about 50 years. She was an extraordinary public figure as councillor, mayor, and part of Montgomeryshire."

"She was a huge support for her husband, the late Lord Hooson QC. She helped him create the barristers chambers in Chester, of which I later became a member."

"She loved her town of Llanidloes and demonstrated that in many actions and statements over the years."

"When she had views she expressed them forcefully and was always willing to challenge conventional authority. She had a very, very wide circle of loyal friends. She dealt with her long final illness with great dignity."

Inquest opened on road crash tragedy

A PEDESTRIAN who died in a car crash near Oswestry has been named.

Jake Adrian Thomas, from Oswestry, died on April 16 after the crash on the B5069 Gobowen Road at about 9.30pm.

An inquest into the 30-year-old's death was opened by assistant coroner for Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, Heath Westerman. Mr Westerman said CPR was administered but Mr Thomas was declared deceased at the scene.

The inquest was adjourned until August 22 at Shirehall in Shrewsbury.

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Singers still hitting right note



Choir members have been given the chance to sing in a variety of historic buildings

STUDENTS at a Shropshire college, who enjoyed great success at Oswestry Youth Music Festival, have revelled in the chance to sing in a variety of historic Roman buildings.

Members of Ellesmere College Chamber Choir, along with some members of the local community in the town, said they were thrilled with the chance to sing in St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, the Pantheon in Rome and the Cathedral in Ravello, Sorrento. The one-week music tour has been deemed a huge success by director of music at the college, Tony Coupe.

"Everyone has had a wonderful time on the trip," he said.

"Singing in these historic places has been an absolute delight and the choir have really done themselves and the college proud."

"A highlight was singing in St Peter's Basilica as there is such a calming atmosphere and the surroundings are so striking, we knew our singing had to match it to do justice."

"The Pantheon comes a close second though – the building is incredible and the choir were amazed."

"You can see just by looking at the pictures what the circumstances were like. It took some time to compose ourselves ready to sing when you're stunned into silence, but the visitors who were there at the time enjoyed our singing."

The choir sang Christus Factus Est, Ave Verum Corpus, O Nata Lux and O Quam Gloriosum amongst other repertoire.

They also went sightseeing and enjoyed visiting the area.

Mr Coupe added that the choir had managed to do plenty of practice on the trip ready for the upcoming competitions they have now that they have returned home.

"The opportunity was fantastic," he added.

"We do a lot of practice at school and after school activities, they are a very committed group so the annual music tour is always something to look forward to – still plenty of hard work, but in different surroundings."

The trip follows a performance at the Royal Festival Hall in London when they took part in the Barnardo's Youth Choral Competition.

In February the students celebrated a record year at the Oswestry Youth Music Festival with successes across all categories and 24 first places.

Reality star Jonny loves new role as panto star

Report by Jonny Drury

A LOVE Island star turned Celebrity Big Brother contestant will make his panto debut playing the lead role in an annual festive pantomime.

Jonny Mitchell, who rose to fame in the Love Island villa, has been confirmed as the headline star in Jack & the Beanstalk, which is being performed at the Stiwt Theatre in Rhos near Oswestry this December.

Fresh from a stint on Celebrity Big Brother earlier this year, Jonny says he is excited to make his panto debut, playing hapless but loveable hero Jack.

Jonny said: "I'm buzzing to be making my panto debut, especially as I'll be performing in beautiful North Wales."

"Pantomime and performing as a whole is all completely new to me, it's something a little out of my comfort zone but I'm looking forward to putting my all into it and learning the ropes."

"Panto is all about fun and making people laugh, so I'm delighted that I'll be a part of that."

Jack & the Beanstalk tells the story of Jack, who swaps the family cow for a bag of beans.

With a beanstalk reaching the heavens, golden geese and hungry giants, this show will be one that is too big to miss.

This will be the ninth year Liverpool-based LHK Productions have produced the much-loved Christmas pantomime at the Stiwt Theatre.

Lee Kelly, managing director of LHK Productions, said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to have cast Jonny in this year's pantomime. Jonny's well known to many for his time in the Love Island villa and Big Brother house, so it'll be good to see him give the Stiwt Theatre stage a go in panto."

"Our pantomime has an extremely strong reputation, every year we put on a magical show and every year it gets bigger and better, and this year will be no exception."

Jack & the Beanstalk will be at the Stiwt Theatre from December 8-31, with matinee and evening performances.

Tickets for the pantomime are now on sale, and can be purchased via: [http://www.stiwt.com/cy/whats-on/-jack-and-the-beanstalk-or-by-telephoning-the-stiwt-s-box-office-on-\(01978\)-841300](http://www.stiwt.com/cy/whats-on/-jack-and-the-beanstalk-or-by-telephoning-the-stiwt-s-box-office-on-(01978)-841300).

District chairman at organisation meeting

SANDRA Morris, Inner Wheel district chairman, recently visited the Welshpool club at the Royal Oak Hotel and joined members for dinner.

Sandra told members something of her life and illustrated her Inner Wheel message with a short film about wild geese.

At the business meeting following the talk, arrangements for next year were confirmed. The planned outing to Powis Castle gardens in May was changed, as it was felt the terrain might be too much of a challenge for some people. A visit to the British Ironworks, Oswestry, was substituted.

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Council may spend £1.5m on salt units

A LOCAL authority could spend £1.5 million building new units to house more salt to tackle ice and snowbound roads.

Powys County Council's current stock capacity for salt is approximately 23,000 tonnes.

But the agreed ideal stock level to ensure there is enough to get through a tough winter is 32,500 for county and trunk routes.

A report will go before the council in the coming weeks from cabinet member for assets Phyl Davies is proposing to build to new units in Newtown and Llangammarch Wells. The report comes on the back of a review commissioned across the UK after national salt shortages in 2009/10.

In Wales, the Salt Union, a forum of all local authorities, the Welsh Local Government Association and the Welsh Government agreed to set targets to achieve sufficient stock levels to ensure Wales was more resilient. Failure to increase stock levels will place the authority at risk, for it may not be able to access government salt stocks emergency salt stocks.

In an average year, the authority uses 22,000 tonnes. There is no figure available yet for this winter, but with long periods of freezing weather and three major snowfalls it is likely to be well above that average. The report says £1.486 million is available from capital funding to provide an additional "strategic salt storage". Councillor Davies said: "Increasing salt storage will reduce the reliance on winter restocking."

Demand made for evidence on takeover

THE Home Office is being challenged to explain why it is allowing a takeover by police boss John Campion.

The head of Shropshire's Fire Service said a mismatch between independent and government reports into the proposals was a "real concern".

Councillor Eric Carter has written to the Home Office demanding answers amid the possibility of a legal challenge.

Mr Campion, the police and crime commissioner, has been given the go-ahead to take control of Shropshire Fire Service. The commissioner said his plans for both police and fire services to be governed by him would save £4 million.

But Councillor Carter said he is unhappy with the decision, and challenged the Home Office: "If you've got evidence, let us see it."

The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy said there is "no overwhelming case" for Mr Campion to become head of the fire service – while government departmental analysis said "clear savings could be made". Councillor Carter added: "It is right and proper that we get a better knowledge of what basis the decision was made on."

Research system to be launched

AN official launch of a new research facility at Oswestry Library will take place next week.

The facility means volunteers have been able to have the Oswestry and Border Counties Advertisers re-digitized to allow easier access for people and preserve them for the foreseeable future.

The new system, now on computer, is already in use in Oswestry Library.

An official launch of the new system will take place at 10am on Friday next week.

Hospice in cash boost

CARER of the Year at Allenby Douglas, Oswestry, Petra Fecurova chose Hope House as her nominated charity. A cheque for £200, the proceeds from a Christmas raffle, was given to the hospice.

Caring runners keen to make a difference and help others



Some of the runners who took part in the run in Oswestry for Matt Campbell



Sarah-Jane Stone and Sara Elliot ran for The Children's Society

RUNNERS in Oswestry lined up to complete the 3.7 miles that London Marathon athlete Matt Campbell did not finish.

Oswestry runner Jody Wilson put out an appeal for people to run two laps of the town's industrial estate on Thursday last week to raise money for the charity Mr Campbell was supporting.

The former Masterchef competitor collapsed and died 3.7 miles from the end of this year's

London Marathon. Jody, a veteran of five London marathons, said: "We have a great running community in the area and I felt we should do something to support a fellow, fallen, runner."

Mr Campbell was raising money for the Bravery Trust a charity based in Cumbria which was supported by his father Martin who passed away 18 months ago.

Meanwhile, runner Mark Swallow from Montgomery near Welshpool, who last year

collapsed with heat exhaustion 25 miles into the London Marathon, kept his cool to finish this year.

"The main thing is that I managed to raise almost £2,100 for Barnardo's Cymru thanks to my employers, Willis Towers Watson, doubling the money," said Mark.

And The Children's Society has thanked two Oswestry friends who crossed the marathon finishing line. Sara Elliot and Sarah-Jane

Stone completed the gruelling 26.2 mile course to support the charity's work with the most vulnerable children across the country affected by issues such as poverty, abuse and neglect.

The friends were both novice runners and this was their first ever marathon. They are both passionate about helping children and young people – a cause that led them to run for the charity. So far, they have raised a collective £3,789 towards the charity's work.

Talented students put on a great show for all to enjoy



The show was an all-singing and all-dancing extravaganza



The young performers entertained the audience with their talents



The young performers enjoyed the experience



A total of 22 students from Face2Face Performance Academy took to the stage



Songs from the hit musical movie The Greatest Showman were performed

The new magazine for Shropshire

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NEWS

A VILLAGE, ITS CHILDREN, AND ENERGY DRINKS

How a Shropshire community came together to stop its children from drinking high-caffeine beverages.

OUTDOORS

A special walking route to mark the forthcoming Ironbridge Walking Festival, planned by its chairman.

EVENTS

A one-to-one interview with Jason Donovan as he prepares for the first of two dates at Shropshire theatres.

FOOD

A cocktail maker shares his tips and recipes ahead of talks at next week's Ludlow Spring Festival



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The best places to eat, the picks of what's on television, films heading to Shropshire cinemas, and the top 10 budget wedding reception venues.

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ON SALE FRIDAY

Luncheon in support of garden

A DRIVE to raise money for a new garden at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital is set for a boost.

Sir Algernon and Lady Herber-Percy are hosting a luncheon in the garden restaurant at Hodnet Hall on May 17 in support of the Horatio's Garden Oswestry Appeal.

Gardeners' Question Time presenter Bunny Guinness will be sharing her top gardening tips and insight into the design of the fourth Horatio's Garden, which will benefit patients at the Midlands Centre for Spinal Injuries which is based at the orthopaedic hospital.

Following the generous donation from the National Garden Scheme (NGS) to the Horatio's Garden Oswestry Appeal, long-time NGS supporters Sir Algernon and Lady Herber-Percy are hosting this limited spaces event to further support the appeal. The gardens at Hodnet Hall have been welcoming visitors for over 50 years, with Sir Algernon's father having been the driving force behind the current layout of the gardens, working to seamlessly link the newer gardens with the grounds of the earlier mansion.

Guests at the fundraising lunch will have the opportunity to tour the gardens accompanied by Hodnet Hall gardeners, and discover the hard work and challenges of keeping the site looking ready for visitors.

People interested in attending the event should call Horatio's Garden on (01722) 326834 to reserve a place for a donation of £40 to the charity.

College makes half marathon funding plea

A SPECIALIST college is urging runners to complete a 13 mile half marathon later this year to raise money towards therapy and fitness facilities for students.

The Derwen College in Gobowen near Oswestry, which provides residential further education for students with learning difficulties and disabilities, has teamed up with the organisers of the Shrewsbury Half Marathon to offer free places to two runners.

This year the college is aiming to raise £60,000 towards a new project to re-develop its sport and fitness facilities.

The plans include a much needed upgrade of the current swimming pool and sports hall, and a brand new hydrotherapy pool which will provide a valuable therapy resource for those with limited movement and agility. Representatives from Derwen College will be volunteering on the day.

They are now looking for two runners to take on the 13 mile course and to raise sponsorship. Runners who have already signed up for Shrewsbury Half are also invited to run for the college.

For more information contact Anna Evans on (01691) 661234.

Group is given ospreys update

AN update on ospreys breeding in Wales was given to members of a community group which serves communities in the Oswestry area.

Graham and Chris Pennie told members of the Three Parishes Community Wildlife Group about the Dyfi Osprey Project with tales of the birds Monty and Glesni and the raising of chicks through successful breeding seasons. Both birds have returned to Mid Wales from Africa this year.

The next meeting will be on May 17 in the Pavilion in Gobowen at 7.30pm and will include a talk on pine martens.

Members can join a wildflower identification and recording day at Llanymynech on May 26 and other future events include an evening walk around Chirk Castle on August 16 with bat spotting part of the plan.

All are welcome.

Picture focus



Muriel Jones has family connections to the memorial in Oswestry



Barbara Joan Davies says the statue should go in a poet's corner



Former councillor Heather Bickerton, who has lived in Oswestry for more than 30 years

Public sticking to their guns over park statue proposal

Report by Sue Austin

OSWESTRY people have said an artillery gun should be kept as the centrepiece of the entrance garden to the town's main public park.

The memorial gun has been in the same place for 30 years, paying tribute to all the gunners – Royal Artillery soldiers, who passed through Park Hall camp on the edge of the town.

Councillors held a special meeting last week to decide whether the gun should be moved to one side in Cae Glas Park to allow a statue of war poet Wilfred Owen to be placed in the same area.

Wilfred Owen was born in Oswestry.

The statue has been commissioned to mark the centenary of the First World War.

Those in the park last week were adamant that the 25-pounder gun should remain where it is.

Objecting

They were of the same mind as the Wrexham branch of the Royal Artillery Association.

The association wrote to Oswestry Town Council objecting to it being removed from its long-established position and, also to a statue of any person, regardless of their military or civilian status, being put in the memorial garden.

The branch has pointed out that whereas Lieutenant Wilfred Owen has a pub, a road and a village green dedicated to him in Oswestry, two Victoria Cross soldiers, Brigadier General John Vaughan Campbell and Sergeant Major Harold Edward Whitfield only have a residential close named in their honour.

Former artilleryman Jim Wadkin, who was at Park Hall until 1966, said the branch's suggestion of having a poet's corner in a different area of the park where the statue could go, was a good one and suggested close to the children's play park.

He said: "This area has a much larger footprint close to the tennis court, bowls green and crazy golf."

"A statue may stir up some interest to inquire about the children."

Barbara Joan Davies, 72, also liked the idea of a poet's corner as she herself writes poetry.

She moved to Oswestry two years ago.

She said: "I brought my 21-year-old grandson to the park and we noticed the artillery gun and talked about it being a symbol to those who had given their lives for us."

"Wilfred Owen is a symbol of peace and I be-



Colin Brutnell says the gun should stay where it is



Former artilleryman Jim Wadkin says the gun should remain where it is

lieve we are here on earth as peacemakers – I think the gun should stay where it is and the statue placed in a different spot."

Former town and borough councillor, Heather Bickerton, does not want to see more money than is needed spent on the statue.

She said: "The town council has already spent a lot of money on the statue and it is now saying it could cost £20,000 to re-site the gun to put the statue alongside."

"What is the point of that – this is public money that could be wasted."

"Put the statue somewhere else."

For Muriel and Michael Jones it is the Cae Glas Park Gates that have a very personal significance.

Mr Jones's two uncles, John Richard Jones

and George Henry Jones, two brothers from Whittington, have their names carved on the plaques on the columns of the gates.

Mrs Jones, 73, said: "I don't think any one person should stand out above others in this memorial area of the park."

"Yes, have a statue in the park but not where the gun is."

"Wilfred Owen only lived in Oswestry for a short time."

"The men who are remembered on the gates were Oswestry men through and through."

Colin Brutnell, from Trefonen, said: "The gun has been here for a long time – why move it?"

"There is plenty of space in the park for the Wilfred Owen statue to go elsewhere."

The views were given before town councillors met last week to discuss whether to move the gun.

After a discussion the councillors agreed to move it to one side and have it stand alongside the new statue of Wilfred Owen.

Councillor Sandy Best said the Cae Glas Park management committee met recently and put forward suggestions to create a flower bed centrepiece and position the gun and statue either side of it. The proposal was accepted unanimously by the council.

The council will now have to find an extra £20,000 to complete the work as the area will need to be redesigned. It had already set aside a budget of £40,000 for the statue which is being moulded at Castle Fine Art Foundry.

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
LETTING

Double fronted residence located in picturesque valley

A detached double fronted Victorian residence, Bryn Ceiriog in the hamlet of Pontfaen near Chirk, is positioned within the picturesque Ceiriog Valley.

Having four bedrooms and three bathrooms, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £670,000. With double glazing and oil central heating, it has an entrance hall, a living room, sitting room, a laundry room, a breakfast kitchen, a morning room, three bathrooms, four bedrooms, a reception room and a cellar. The lounge has a marble fireplace, picture railing and sash windows to the front and side, ceiling cornicing and panelled flooring. Also having panelled flooring is the sitting room. This also has a feature fireplace, picture railing and ceiling cornicing and is currently used as an office. The reception room has French sandstone flooring, an integrated bar, plantation shutters and a door leading to the cellar. The laundry has a tessellated floor, plumbing for a washing machine and dryer and space for a fridge/freezer.

Being L-shaped the breakfast kitchen has both a dining and lounge area.

The dining area has a French sandstone floor and a wood burning stove. The lounge area has bi-folding doors opening out to a decked seating area. Currently used as a cinema room, the morning room has a panelled floor, floor to ceiling windows and patio doors to the garden. It also has a door to a bathroom/ sauna with a WC and a walk-in shower cubicle. On the first floor bedroom four has a panelled floor and a sash window. Bedroom three has fitted wardrobes with a mirror front, a feature fireplace and a sash window. Bedroom two has a feature fireplace and a sash window. There is also an inner landing, a storage room and the master bedroom (en-suite) with built-in double wardrobes. Outside are electric gates with an intercom onto a stone driveway with ample parking. There is also a garage and stunning ample gardens and grounds including a spacious decked seating area with large jacuzzi and a beautiful pond with a waterfall. There is also a summer house/bar and the property has planning permission for a large double garage.

KEY FEATURES

- Detached Victorian residence
- Double fronted
- Four bedrooms/three bathrooms
- Cellar
- Picturesque Ceiriog Valley

PONTFAEN £670,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: JJ Dell & Co.
TEL: 01691 653437
EMAIL: property@jjdell.co.uk





17th century home offers highly flexible accommodation

HOPE
£725,000

Little Hope, at Hope, Leighton near Welshpool is a 17th century cottage that has undergone a large extension.

Currently run as a bed and breakfast business, its flexible layout means it also provides for two co-habiting families, with separate quarters. In a design which flows with exceptional clarity and focus as a property with an option for two halves, it is for sale through Balfours at £725,000.

The main cottage comprises a porch, a large sitting room with an inglenook fireplace, woodburner and French doors. Adjacent is the library with glazing and views to two aspects and the study – a cosy hideaway. The morning room is the central point of the ground floor from which the stairs ascend to three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Beyond the morning room, the dining room is partially open plan to the kitchen, achieving a fabulous social space



with sleek contemporary fixtures in the kitchen. A second study, cloakroom/WC and utility complete the ground floor accommodation.

Duncan Scobie of Balfours, said: "Evelyn and Mike Gregory have nurtured Little Hope to create a fresh and spacious home, together with a highly successful bed and breakfast business. The latter is run as Long Mountain Bed and Breakfast, which has received many awards and certificates of excellence, from Visit Wales and Trip Adviser. The guest accommodation reflects this, it provides three spacious double bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom and the other two with en-suite shower rooms. A large guest dining/lounge spanning nearly six metres square and an independent guest kitchen allow the guest accommodation to be run totally separately; or for an extended family to enjoy."

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



Stunning farmhouse enjoys superb views over valley

LLANRHAEDR
£400,000 >>>

Clynog, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £400,000.

The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains and near Pistyll Rhaeadr.

The property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.

Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367 for more details about the home or to arrange a viewing.



Detached house with valley views comes with a large decked area

GARTH
£374,950 <<<

An individual detached house with valley views and first floor open plan living, Tyn-Y-Pistyll at Garth, Glyn Ceiriog, comes with a large timber decked area, landscaped gardens and woodland.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £374,950. Briefly the property comes with three bedrooms, a shower room and a bathroom.

A turning timber-built staircase rises up from the entrance hall to the upper level lobby with a tiled floor and external door to the rear.

Access leads through to the living area which has a multi-fuel stove fitted to the slate built fireplace, being dual aspect with a large picture window to the rear and concealed radiators. An open plan approach leads through to the dining/kitchen.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.

Semi detached former bakery is located in a semi rural position

WESTON
£225,000 >>>

A semi-detached former bakery, 1 The Bakery at Weston near Oswestry is a recently renovated Grade II listed semi-detached house located in a semi-rural position.

Having three bedrooms and an Air Source heating system, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £225,000 with no chain. The property has new timber double glazed window units and under floor heating to the first floor. The reception hall has ceramic tiled flooring, as does the cloakroom/WC and a study area which also has a deep storage cupboard. The breakfast kitchen has modern fitted cottage-style units, a stainless steel single drainer unit with mixer taps, ample worktop space, plumbing for a washing machine, a four-ring hob and oven with an extractor, plumbing for a dishwasher, a side door to car parking and a garden.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 for more details.



Perfect country retreat enjoys outstanding views

MOELFRE
£595,000

A perfect country retreat, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life, Y Dafarn at Moelfre, has four bedrooms and outstanding countryside views.

Overlooking Moelfre Lake, it is for sale through Town & Country at £595,000 with no chain. A highly desirable and attractive four bedroom detached family home, it sits in three acres of fields and gardens. Its accommodation briefly comprises a reception room, a living room, a shower room, a kitchen/breakfast room, a laundry, an orangery, a study, a master bedroom with an en-suite, three further bedrooms and a bathroom. To the outside there are beautiful gardens leading to the lake, tandem and double garages, ample off-road parking, outbuildings and a sun terrace. Its elegant entrance hallway has a stone fireplace (not working), part panelled walls, a beam and stairs off. The sitting room has a beamed ceiling, a brick fireplace with an oil fired stove and alcove cupboards. The shower room is a fantastic luxury space with a tiled floor, wash hand basin on vanity unit, WC, walk-in shower with a Triton shower unit, a luxury ceiling mounted air body dryer,



Individually designed detached bungalow comes with annexe

LEIGHTON
£445,000 <<<

Nant Y Coed at Leighton near Welshpool is an individually designed detached bungalow with a self-contained annexe in 0.6 acre, large gardens and a 2.55 acre paddock.

It is for sale through Balfours at £445,000.

"This individually designed, 21st century build offers wonderful views from a plot chosen by the current vendors", said Balfours' agent Duncan Scobie.

He added: "Nant Y Coed is in a slightly elevated position just outside Welshpool, in the upper reaches of the Severn Valley near the border between England and Wales.

"It is a wonderful location just over a mile from the market town of Welshpool and less than 20 miles from Shrewsbury and Oswestry."

Contact Balfours on 01743 241181 for more information about the property or to arrange a viewing.



a vanity mirror and a beamed ceiling. The kitchen/breakfast room is the beautiful heart of the home. A farm-style kitchen open plan to the living room, it has wooden flooring, free-standing units, a ceramic sink with a mixer tap, a stainless steel oven, a microwave, an induction hob, under-floor heating, plumbing for a dishwasher and a window to the front. Stairs lead off to the first floor. There is access to an attic above the kitchen with a pull down ladder. This is boarded and has lighting. There is also a pantry with a ceramic sink, cold slabs, a beamed ceiling and old pub stone steps. The living room has wooden flooring, under-floor heating, two windows to the side and a storage room off. A fabulous space, the orangery/family room has lovely panoramic views over the lake and grounds.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



They live in a house, a very big house, in the country...



Combermere Abbey, near Whitchurch and its beautiful surroundings will be open to visitors under the Invitation To View scheme



Hettie Fenwick outside her home, Aldenham Park, at Morville

Historic homes set to throw open doors

Report by Mark Andrews

PEOPLE will get a chance to see how the other half lives when the owners of some of the grandest and most historic properties in Shropshire and Mid Wales open their homes to the public.

Millichope Park, near Craven Arms and Willey Hall, near Broseley are among the magnificent residences which will open their doors to visitors.

Hardwick Hall near Ellesmere, Pitchford Hall near Shrewsbury and Combermere Abbey near Whitchurch will also be taking part as will Brithdir Hall near Welshpool, Bodfach Hall Gardens in Llanfyllin and Brynkinalt at Chirk near Oswestry.

The owners of the properties, some of whose families have lived there for generations, will act as tour guides, explaining the rich histories behind the grand houses.

The Invitation To View scheme sees properties across the region open their doors for private tours over the next month.

Plas Dinhamb in Powys is also taking part.

Willey Hall has been the seat of the Forester family since it was built within hundreds of acres of its own parkland in 1815.

Lord Forester, who lives at the house with his wife and two children, said: "Shropshire can boast a wealth of privately-owned properties which are fascinating both historically and architecturally, and often have glorious gardens."

"It gives us enormous pleasure to be able to show people around the house which, like all the others in the region, has many points of interest."

Bloom

He said one of the most interesting thing was the references throughout the house to what was one of the most important eras in British history.

"The house was built the same year as the Battle of Waterloo, and of course we are situated almost next door to Ironbridge, birthplace of the Industrial Revolution," he said.

"Both the Napoleonic Wars and the Industrial Revolution, events which helped shape the future of the country, are heavily referenced in the collection of paintings, books and china."

He said those taking part in the tour would be served tea and cake in the conservatory, from where they could wander around the garden and see the azaleas in full bloom.

Neil Mainwaring, who lives at Hardwick Hall with his wife Ali, said previous tours had proved extremely popular.

Mr Mainwaring's family have been at the property since it was built in 1720.

"I think much of its popularity lies in the fact that the properties are inhabited by the owning families, and the tours are given by those who have enormous pride in and knowledge of their ancestral home," he said.

Aldenham Park at Morville, meanwhile, is noted for once providing a hiding place for King Charles I.

Hettie Fenwick, whose family has owned the Grade II



Lord Forester outside Willey Hall with his son Percy

listed property since 1959, is opening its doors to members of the public as part of the scheme, as she did last year.

Visitors will be given a conducted tour round the house and its gardens after which visitors will be given tea and refreshments.

Aldenham is where Charles I took refuge from Oliver Cromwell in a priest hole.

Later, Charles II presented the Acton family, the then

owners of Aldenham, with a Van Dyck portrait of himself which now hangs in the saloon.

The family provided a number of MPs for Bridgnorth over the years and owned the property until the 20th century when it was subsequently let.

In 1959 the estate was sold to Mr and Mrs Christopher Thompson, who undertook a major restoration project. The estate remains in private ownership and is used as a wedding and conference venue.



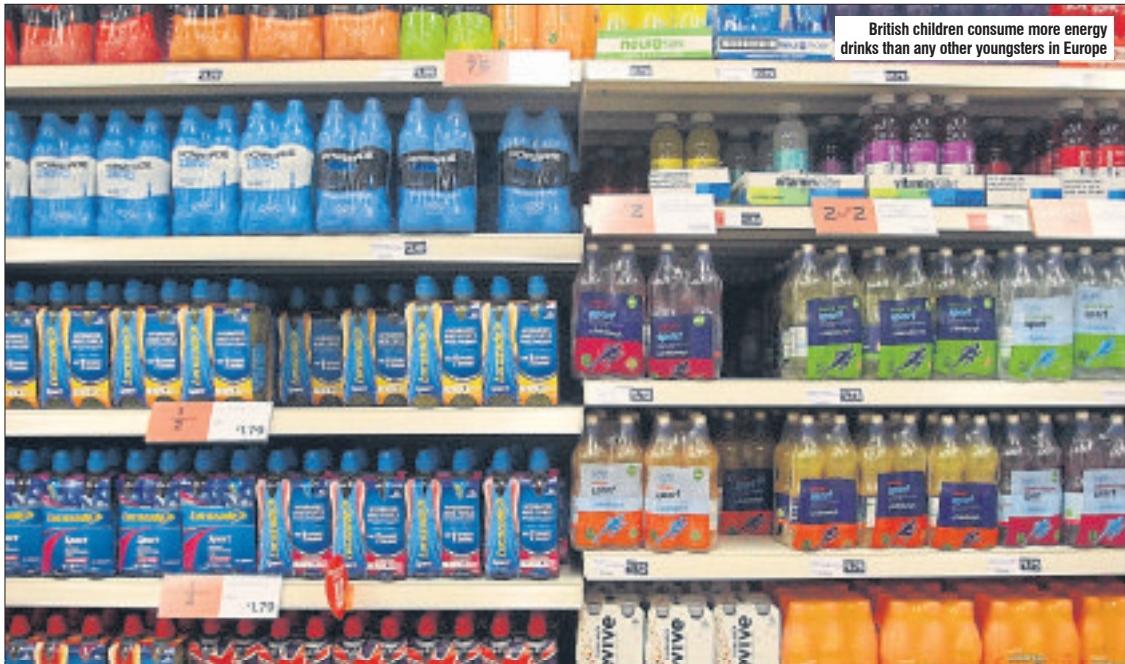
Neil Mainwaring, whose family have lived at Hardwick Hall for almost 300 years



Willey Hall, near Broseley

This will be the fourth year that the family have taken part in the scheme and it has always proved popular with visitors. Mrs Fenwick said last time round: "It is a very personal tour as Aldenham is very much a house for living in. I am extremely proud of my family home and it gives me enormous pleasure being able to show interested groups around the house and gardens."

The tours at properties across the region cost from £18 to £30, and include hot and cold refreshments.



British children consume more energy drinks than any other youngsters in Europe

Are energy drinks harming children?

Health professionals are increasingly worried about how energy drinks are affecting our young children. MARK ANDREWS spoke to the experts.

On the edge. Jittery. Irritable, bad tempered, anxious. These symptoms probably sound familiar to many parents.

But if your child has been particularly tetchy lately, has developed sugar cravings, or seems to be bored all the time, it might be worth checking up on what they are drinking.

According to Shropshire nutritional expert Charlotte Griffin-Jones, they are just some of the visible symptoms of children who have been consuming energy drinks.

High-caffeine drinks have been in the news since St Martins, near Oswestry, became the first village in the country to impose a blanket ban on the sale of them to under 16s. All the retailers in the village agreed not to sell them to children, earning the praise of television chef Jamie Oliver.

The star called on Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt to follow the lead of St Martins by introducing laws prohibiting the sale of the drinks to youngsters.

But it is not just television chefs who are concerned by the drinks. Recent research found that British children consume more energy drinks than any other youngsters in Europe, with the figure rising by 185 per cent since 2006. MPs are so concerned that a parliamentary committee is to hold an inquiry to see if, indeed, there is need for a change in the law.

Norman Lamb, chairman of the science and technology committee, says: "We need to understand how the caffeine and sugar in energy drinks might cause negative health outcomes."

Meanwhile, some retailers have chosen to ban their sale, and some have not. Should it be for retailers to decide which products can be sold on health grounds? Our inquiry will consider the evidence and set out what needs to be done by the Government, the industry and others."

So what is so bad about energy drinks?

Mrs Griffin-Jones, a registered nutritional therapist who runs the Something On A Plate consultancy in Shrewsbury, says the visible signs of crochety, anxious behaviour are just the tip of the iceberg.

"What we don't see is what's happening internally – livers working overtime to process and remove caffeine, insulin pumping around the body mopping up sugar, fat cells growing as they greedily take in that extra sugar."

"At the same time the heart, blood vessels and kidneys are taking the heat from raised blood pressure. In the long term all these things add up to an increased risk of diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease."

Mrs Griffin-Jones, herself the mother of young twins, says the drinks are made up of a killer combination of sugar and caffeine and a number of other ingredients not recognised as particularly nourishing for the body. But that is not taking into account on the brain.

"Like all addictive substances the brain recognises it, accepts it and enjoys it for a brief moment," says Mrs Griffin-Jones.

"We feel alert and energetic but then just as we're enjoying this high, the brain kicks it out again when the feeling gets too weak and goes on the hunt for something else to provide that high again."

"And so the vicious cycle of addictive cravings begin."

She says that for an adult the effects are bad

enough, but for the developing mind and body of a child they are considerably worse.

"It takes five-to-six hours for 50 per cent of the caffeine content in an adults bloodstream to reduce, in children and teenagers caffeine sticks around for much longer and at higher levels resulting in the type of behavioural problems and anxiety school teachers are witnessing."

Supermarket giants Tesco, Asda, Morrison's, Sainsbury's, the Co-op, Waitrose, Aldi and Lidl have also introduced a voluntary agreement not to sell the drink to under 16s.

Mrs Griffin-Jones is a firm supporter of the ban.

"Policy makers, food manufacturers, supermarkets, small shop owners and ultimately parents all have a responsibility to ensure our children are not exposed to such toxic ingredients at an age when they are physically and mentally developing," she says.

The British Soft Drinks Association insists the drinks are not marketed to children.

Director general, Gavin Partington, says: "Energy drinks and their ingredients have been deemed safe by regulatory authorities around the world."

"In 2010 we introduced a voluntary code of practice to support parents and consumers who want to make informed choices. In 2015 this was updated to include more stringent guidelines around marketing and promoting, including reference to in and around schools."

"Energy drinks are not marketed or promoted to under 16s and all beverages carry an advisory note stating: Not recommended to children."

"Energy drink manufacturers have taken all possible steps to be clear about the suitability of energy drinks."

But Mrs Griffin-Jones is also concerned that the drinks mean fewer families are eating together for breakfast.

"Children have got all the time in the world to turn into highly stressed, caffeine-fuelled adults," she says. "Let's prevent it from starting too early while we can."

Should we put time limits on social media?



Could social media be having a negative impact on young people's emotional health?

CHILDREN and teenagers face being cut off from social media sites after a few hours of browsing under proposals being drawn up by Government ministers.

Ministers are looking at imposing a limit on time spent by children on social media platforms, such as Snapchat and Instagram, amid concern that overuse damages mental health.

Matt Hancock, the secretary of state for digital, culture, media and sport, said the negative impact on young people from too much screen time is a "genuine concern" – suggesting an age verification system to tackle the problem.

He said: "There is a genuine concern about the amount of screen time young people are clocking up and the negative impact it could have on their lives."



Could time on social media be limited?

"For an adult I wouldn't want to restrict the amount of time you are on a platform, but for different ages it might be right to have different time cut-offs."

The Government says it wants the UK to be "the safest place in the world to be online" and has announced it will introduce a new code of practice this year, setting out the minimum expectations on social media companies.

Midlands healthcare expert Alex Critchell said that social media can have a negative impact on young people's emotional health and wellbeing.

Mr Critchell, of Shropshire and South Staffordshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, is also general manager of a 0-25 emotional health and wellbeing service.

He said: "We recognise that social media is an emerging issue that can have a negative impact on young people's emotional health and wellbeing."

"Our experience is that often social media is mentioned in relation to online bullying and young people present with issues such

as low mood, anxiety and depression as a result. As well as social media, we are also aware of young people spending increasing amounts of time on devices and/or online gaming which is having a detrimental impact on their sleep, which in turn affects their emotional health and wellbeing."

"However, we also recognise that young people's use of social media and/or mobile devices does present new opportunities to engage with young people."

Alice Cruttwell, Shropshire Council's public health curriculum adviser, said lessons should enable pupils to reflect how they manage and assess risks and benefits of using social media.

She added: "Schools are provided with curriculum advice, staff training and policy guidance on personal, social and health education (PSHE).."

"Parents are offered parenting groups, facilitated by the Early Help parenting team, which are called "Understanding Your Child/Teen", and we also offer child sexual exploitation (CSE) awareness raising workshops for parents, which address the subject of online safety."

Concerned

Russell Griffin, a spokesman for Telford & Wrekin Council, added: "We work in collaboration with schools to offer information, advice and guidance to parents on their children's use of social media."

"A large number of our schools recently took part in National Internet Safety Day in February where there was specific spotlight on this area."

Andrew McNaughton, headteacher of Charlton School, in Wellington, said he and his colleagues have to deal with a number of issues with pupils that have originated from social media platforms.

He said that the school has an "off and away" policy for mobile phones in order to safeguard the school community.

Mr McNaughton said: "As a school, we are extremely concerned about the negative impact social can have on young people, including on their mental health. A large proportion of issues we deal with in school have originated on social media the previous night or over the weekend."

"Students are able to post things that they wouldn't say in person. There are ever increasing pressures on children to have the latest apps and to be available to be online at all times."

"Phones that are seen in school are taken off students to be collected at the end of the day or to be collected by parents for repeat offenders."





Let it lie – enjoy a relaxing drink on a canopy bed



Rock on – the landscape is quite rocky and rugged



Claws and effect – seafood is on the menu

Get in the pink with a break at Weston Park



WESTON Park is tickled pink to announce the opening of its latest holiday property from this month, which follows the extensive renovation of one of its most treasured properties.

Pink Cottage is nestled in the heart of the Capability Brown created Temple Wood and was for many years the much-loved retreat of 18th century socialite Lady Bridgeman, and is now a place to seek a relaxing short break.

The charming and quirky cottage, which has been part of the estate since the 17th century, has been restored to create a unique and cosy space, perfect for two people to escape the hustle and bustle of modern life.

It takes its place alongside a number Weston's other historic follies that have been converted into holiday properties, all celebrating their unique stories while blending the graceful modernity that is expected from a holiday property of distinction.

Interior designer Susie Stocks was commissioned to create a design scheme that touched upon the fascinating story of the cottage and its importance to the Weston estate. The result is an interior that brings the outside in, combined with every high-end comfort to guarantee a truly luxurious break.

Sugared almond colours in the living room have a distinctly contemporary feel, while giving a nod to the property's pink chocolate box exterior.

The cosy bedroom invites guests to feel right at home, with chunky rugs, red furnishings and oak furniture.

The cottage also has a modern en-suite bathroom with heated flooring and walk-in shower, and a spacious kitchen looking out over the woodland.

History

Pink Cottage has a history that's as colourful as its name – but it first started life as a brickyard.

By the 18th century it had had life breathed into it by Lady Bridgeman, a vivacious socialite who resided at Weston with her family and whose recently discovered diaries reveal that she spent much of her free time at the cottage, using it both as a retreat for reading, letter writing and quiet contemplation and as a more intimate surrounding in which to entertain close friends.

In the 1920s and 30s it once again came into the favour of the lady of the house, when it was restored by the 5th Earl's wife, Margaret Bruce with the help of her three daughters. Her daughter Lady Diana even sketched some of her design ideas for renowned interior designers Sibyl Colefax and John Fowler.

It's this spirit of escape merged with bonhomie that the 21st century renovation has endeavoured to capture and all are invited to enjoy.

Standing in the magical Temple Wood, the cottage provides the perfect base from which to explore Weston Park's history, with 1,000 acres of Capability Brown landscaped grounds, the 17th century manor house, the Granary Art Gallery and Granary Deli and Grill to distract right on hand.

Outside of Weston itself, guests will be well positioned to explore both Shropshire and Staffordshire from the estate's location right on the border of both these stunning counties.

The Pink Cottage is the latest of Weston's many follies and houses to be transformed into a luxury holiday property, each with their own varied character.

The estate is home to six bespoke spaces for guests to stay – Temple of Diana (six guests), The Knoll Tower (two guests), Pink Cottage (two guests), The Gardener's Bothy (two guests), The Potting Shed (two guests), and the main house, Weston Park (up to 54 guests in 28 rooms).

A holiday at the Pink Cottage costs from £408 for a three night stay.

For more information or to book a stay at the Pink Cottage visit www.weston-park.com

Whales and a volcano on sunshine holiday

ON HOLIDAY

Report by Jamie Brassington

WE emerged from a thick layer of mist and were now driving above the clouds.

A sprawling white sheet stretched out in front of us as far as the eye could see.

Below us, hidden beneath the cloud layer, was the outer populated edges of Tenerife, and beyond that the sea.

But the only land visible in front was the winding Tarmac path, the steep cliff edges and the sprawling pine forests.

We were driving up Teide National Park, home to Mount Teide, a dormant volcano which is the highest point in Spain and of all the Atlantic islands.

The scenery looks like a movie set. And indeed, Teide is sometimes used as a movie set, due to its other-worldly appearance.

But the most alien-like parts were yet to come.

As we climbed higher along the road, the terrain changed to a dry, arid landscape featuring jagged rocks and hills.

"It is a completely different world when you get to the top," announced our driver and tour guide, Haime.

"Parts of it look like Mars and the Moon."

Volcanic

Fittingly, the park – a volcanic mountain range elevated thousands of metres above sea level – is frequented by film directors.

If you wanted a place to stage a blockbuster sci-fi movie, here was the perfect setting.

Teide has played host to Clash Of The Titans – a 2010 sci-fi smash-hit about warring gods and the universe. It has also been used to film Star Wars and the sixth instalment of The Fast and the Furious.

It is one of the island's most important landmarks. At the top, there is a hotel visitor's centre, a cable car to the summit and an observatory.

It is a far-cry from the typical image usually associated with Tenerife – that of hotels, pools and bars – but is a must-visit for any tourist. The drive up to the top can take up to one hour, with tour operators including Efe Tenerife, which is run by Haime.

Be sure to stop off in some of the quaint villages along the way, where you can sample a delicious coffee at some bars called a Barraquito, which features colourful layers of different ingredients including cinnamon and liquor.

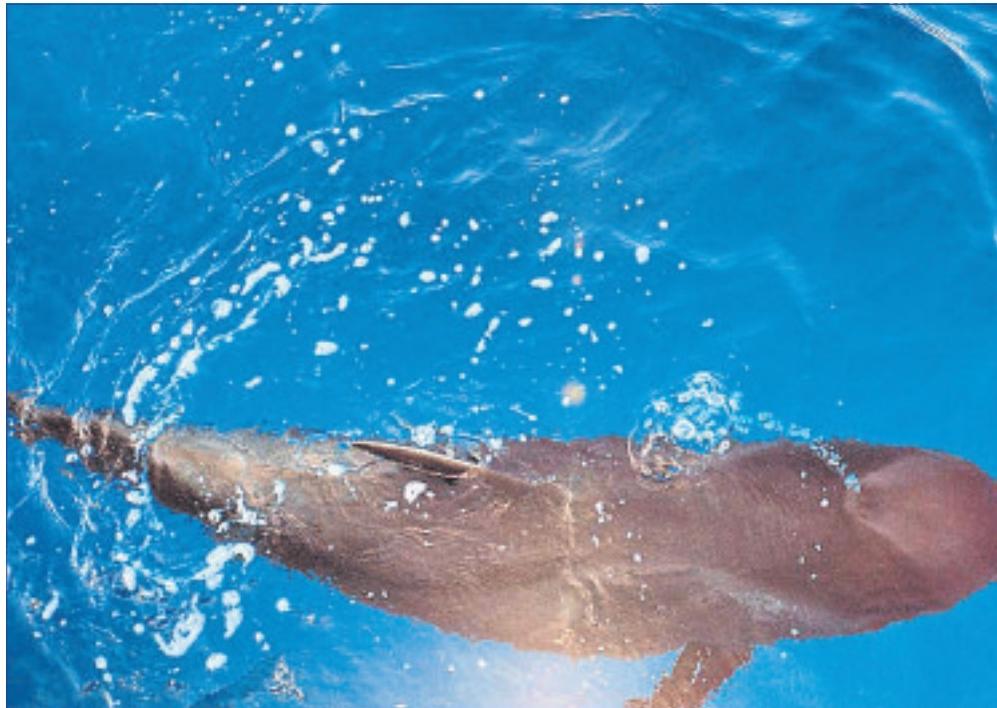
If you don't fancy venturing too far inland, another recommended past-time in Tenerife is whale watching.

You can sit back, relax and enjoy the sun while you travel in a boat for a few miles off the coast where whales are usually visible.

We had to wait about 20 minutes before spotting any whales, but we were lucky enough to find a pod of whales.

It was amazing to see these animals up close and they came right up to the boat.

And if you fancy staying dry but still want to soak up the sun, Tenerife is home



You can have a whale of a time watching the ocean wildlife in a boat just a few miles off the coast of Tenerife

to a host of pristine golf courses for you to tee off.

Past times and sight-seeing are important on holiday – but choosing a good hotel is essential to enjoying your trip.

Our accommodation was the four-star Jardin Tropical Hotel located in Costa Adeje in the south west of the island. It really was a slice of paradise.

The hotel has undergone a recent investment with a redesign of its appearance and a new focus on luxury. It was relaunched on December 1 in time for the Winter sun.

The Jardin boasts 390 rooms. It also has 90 premium rooms which can be bought by upgrading to 'Club' level. This gives you greater access to some of the hotel's luxurious features, including access to the hotel's lower outdoor pool which is located right above the sea. You can also enjoy free drinks – both soft and alcoholic – and cocktails at the exclusive Club bar.

The hotel is designed to help you relax and unwind. It has sun beds – some of which has four posters and a roof – located in the lower pool which overlooks the sea. It was bliss taking in the warm winter sun and listening to waves crash against the shore just feet away.

It might have helped that we stayed during January, one of the year's quieter peri-

ods for holidaying, allowing us to enjoy the facilities in relative peace. You can enjoy a tasty and colourful variety of food at the Jardin. At breakfast and dinner you can have a buffet featuring tonnes of meat, fruit, bread and desserts and there is a good selection of wine alongside the beer available from the hotel's bars.

The hotel rooms were clean, bright, fresh and designed to a tropical theme, with the bathroom mirror decorated in a spiral of bamboo branches. Alongside a walk-in bathroom and balcony, my bedroom was in a separate room to the rest of the main hotel room. It also had a balcony with a sea view. There are bigger rooms available for a higher price.

Palace

The hotel also boasts a roof bar on a balcony, where there are dozens of canopy beds, recliner chairs and hammocks overlooking the ocean.

There is two pools, one heated in the hotel's main complex, and a salt pool located in the lower pool section for Club customers. To get to the lower pool, you have to walk under a small bridge while inside the hotel premises, which goes under a public walkway.

At the lower pool, there is another res-

taurant and bar and a good selection of canopy beds and recliner chairs.

After several days of relaxation in the Jardin – which is designed like a white palace – I can say the hotel is a great holiday destination where you can enjoy the sun all year round in luxury.

The temperature in Tenerife reaches the mid-20s in Winter. The island is part of the Canary Islands, a Spanish colony, that is located in the Atlantic Ocean to the west of Morocco and the African continent. I arrived flying with Ryan Air, and flew back with Jet2. Whether you are after a short break or extended vacation, Tenerife truly is a paradise island. And for a greater budget, you can enjoy a 'tropical' paradise with premium luxury at the Jardin Tropical Hotel.

What you need to know

* Rooms at Jardin Tropical Hotel start from £142 for B&B. A Club double room with a sea view and B&B starts from £187. Visit www.jardin-tropical.com

* Jardin boasts nine golf courses. The top rated is Abama, visit abamagolf.com

* Feel Tenerife tours to Mount Teide start at £124 for two passengers. Visit www.feeltenerife.com

* For whale watching, visit www.skylinetenerife.com

Huge crowds are expected when the couple marry on May 19



May their happiness and service flourish

With the royal wedding just weeks away, SHIRLEY TART looks ahead to Prince Harry and Meghan's big day and their future together

It had all the hallmarks of a blind date that went so brilliantly right.

When Harry met Meghan, so a new life dawned for them both.

We first heard of their engagement for sure at the end of November and from then, it was truly all systems go.

There was a wedding to arrange. The venue was revealed, the date took a bit longer to be released, the time of the ceremony even longer.

But after all, Royalty was set to unite with Hollywood.

All these weeks on, not everyone is royally happy and glorious for them. That well practised feminist Germaine Greer now claims that the marriage will not survive anyway. In an Australian news interview, she suggested that Meghan wouldn't stand the pace and said: "I think she'll bolt, she has bolted before."

Presumably a reference to her divorce from film producer Trevor Engelson. In this 21st century, divorce in the Royal Family is hardly unusual. I'd say Ms Greer is having an attack of unnecessary bitterness.

I would also say we might look more towards the young groom himself in his new role as Commonwealth youth ambassador as he talked of the support he hopes to give to the Queen, his father Prince Charles and his brother Prince William in their own work for young people in particular. And most significantly, that he will be joined in these ventures by 'the woman I am about to marry'.

Once that union was announced, cameras were suddenly in over-drive and writers followed every bit of information about the romance between Prince Henry of Wales, our popular and much loved Prince Harry, and American actress Meghan Markle, who was starring in the TV programme, *Suits*.

Devoted

Perceptive Ms Markle asked a friend who had met Harry previously "Well is he nice?"

Once she got to decide that for herself, the reply was clearly an easy one. Yes, very nice indeed. And subsequent snaps of the already devoted pair show that holding hands, arms about each other and her regular, loving looks underline that very well.

Then what about the guest list? Windsor Castle is a minnow compared to Westminster Abbey and St Paul's Cathedral when it comes to seating – and though they might be moving away from the traditional listing for such occasions, the demand for 'a seat please' is massive.

Though it is said that even special political and celebrity friends – like former president Barack Obama and his wife Michelle – have not been included and that the groom is not well pleased about that.

But organisers are also doing their best to do what Harry and his bride-to-be want and make sure as many folk as possible can be part of the day by being on the route and around the castle and St George's Chapel.

Ever since the day we twigged that this was a fine romance in the making, we all wanted to see Meghan. Who was she, where was she from, how did they meet and most crucially . . . was this the real thing?

It absolutely was the real thing and with the formal confirmation of their love and commitment to each other, next month at Windsor, we shall see Harry and Meghan united. I'll take a chance on it and say, forever.

Despite their own divorce, her parents jointly declare themselves to be delighted at the wedding news and so happy that their 'kind and loving daughter' has found a partner with the same qualities.

While Meghan, especially devoted to her mother, said recently: "My mom has always been a free spirit. She's got dreadlocks and a nose ring. She just ran a marathon. We can have so much fun together, and yet I'll still find so much solace in her support."

Prince Harry is indeed marrying into a close and loving family.

As well as playing a part in charity work and helping support activities in which our younger royals are involved, those serving and who have served in military life, are close to Harry's heart. He and his brother and sister-in-law, Prince William and wife Catherine, have also grasped the mental health issue and are doing much to raise its profile and help sufferers find a way to better health.

Harry and his brother will always have a special place in our hearts as well after they did part of their military training at the RAF Shawbury Helicopter Flying School.

Now, as years have rolled by, those little boys who followed their mother's coffin through the streets of London, have emerged into fine young men who will never forget or stop loving Princess Diana but who also try to move on.

William and Catherine expect their third baby any time now. While Harry has finally declared his love for a lovely lady from a TV film set.

One of Meghan's early schoolteachers has said: "Meghan was very dedicated. I knew she would be something special."

And now the world has discovered just how special she is to a young prince who had to deal with terrible pain and loss when he was far too young and who has finally found the companion of his life.

May their happiness and service to the nation last and flourish.

Will the NHS put us all in an early grave?



The NHS in the UK is spending £149.5bn this year

THE Government's latest wheeze to deal with the never-ending crisis in the National Health Service seems to be a special new tax.

This would be 'hypothecated' – in other words, the money raised can only be spent on the NHS.

We already have such a tax. It's called National Insurance and it's supposed to pay for pensions, the dole and other benefits. But it doesn't actually raise as much as it needs so the rest of the money comes from general taxation.

An NHS tax would be a similar proposition. The only justification for it would be to sugar the pill when the Chancellor stands up and announces a big rise in taxes. In other words, it's just public relations spin; it won't make any difference to the fundamental problem that the NHS's finances are in a terrible mess.

Theresa May has promised a long-term funding plan for the NHS but that on its own isn't good enough. What's needed is a complete overhaul of how the system works.

It cannot be right that TV newsreader George Alagiah has only a 10 per cent chance of surviving bowel cancer because there is no screening programme for the under-60s in England whereas it's automatically available to 50-year-olds in Scotland.

Cosmetic

It cannot be right that Southern Health NHS Trust is fined £2 million over the deaths of two patients because it simply re-circulates taxpayers' money.

It cannot be right that the NHS spends tens of millions on sex change operations, cosmetic breast enlargements – and reductions – facelifts and nose jobs.

It cannot be right that patients who don't need a hospital bed are stuck there because care can't be found for them elsewhere.

It cannot be right that the police use A&E departments as dumping grounds for drunks rather than locking them up in a cell until they sober up.

I could go on . . . but the point is we expect too much from the NHS and however much money it gets we always want more.

The health service has to rein in its activities, stop trying to do everything medical science has made possible and limit what is available for free.

If a woman wants a boob job or a transvestite wants fertility treatment, let them pay for it. There are enough people with real, life-threatening or debilitating illnesses without pandering to people's life-style whims.

To some extent the NHS is a victim of its own success. We are living longer than

we did when it was set up 70 years ago and elderly patients need expensive treatment to keep them going.

But, despite claims the NHS is starved of money, its budget has increased tenfold, after inflation, in the 70 years of its existence.

It was launched in 1948 with a budget of £497m – the equivalent of £15 billion today. Yet the NHS in the UK is spending £149.5bn this year.

True, the population has risen by one-third but, even so, spending has risen much faster. That's because our politicians' only answer to the constant complaints about the health service is to throw more money at it.

Extra spending may be necessary. Theresa May is reportedly planning a £4bn 70th birthday present for the NHS.

But money alone is not the answer. The NHS is an enormously complicated jumble of bodies, trusts, organisations and budget-holders which is inconsistent, inefficient and incoherent.

No wonder NHS productivity – what we get for all that money – is falling, especially in hospitals.

According to a hospital boss I was talking to this week, the NHS is 'the institution that makes us most proud to be British'. We certainly place a great deal of faith in its employees – the fifth largest workforce in the world – and most of the people who care for us are wonderful, dedicated and kind.

It's not the fault of the doctors and nurses if the system itself is suffering.

Reappraisal

What is desperately needed is a thorough reappraisal of the NHS. This reform should ditch all the political prejudices which have dogged health care in this country and look at what is the best way to treat the seriously ill with efficiency and dignity.

The Commonwealth Fund, set up to promote health care, ranks health care in Britain at number one of 11 advanced economies including France, Germany and the US. Its table gives rankings for the care process, access, administrative efficiency and equity. Under each of these headings, the UK is either first or third.

This might be a reason for pride and explain why we tell ourselves the NHS is the envy of the world. The snag is the Commonwealth Fund's league table also looks at health-care outcomes – ie whether the patient lives or dies. We are last but one.

Without thorough reform, the NHS will continue to care for us from cradle to an early grave.



Germaine Greer

May 5

**Pointless Celebrities**

7.40pm

Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the quiz, featuring famous children's TV presenters including Timmy Mallett and Michaela Strachan.

**Live Snooker: The World Championship**

10am

Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the penultimate session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre, where eight frames are set to take place.

**Ninja Warrior UK**

6.30pm

Gethin Jones, Jenni Falconer and Josh Cuthbert test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.

**The Restoration Man: Best Builds**

7pm

George Clarke looks back at four dramatic tower conversions, including a Georgian windmill that became a family home.

**Secrets of Tutankhamun's Treasures**

9.15pm

The origins of the Egyptian pharaoh's iconic death mask, examining theories that many of the items he was buried with were hurriedly assembled.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. Donal Skehan hosts the cookery show, joined by chefs Frederick Forster and Dan Doherty. Plus, this week's celebrity guest Katherine Parkinson faces her food heaven or hell.
- 11.30 The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure.** Dave Myers and Si King visit beaches and mountains in Thailand and discover how the country's multicultural history has helped create a rich and varied cuisine. (R)
- 12.00 Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests review the headlines and look ahead to forthcoming fixtures, including Stoke City v Crystal Palace and Leicester City v West Ham United.
- BBC News; Weather.**
- 1.00 Bargain Hunt.** Anita Manning and Mark Stacey offer advice to two teams at an antiques fair in Ardingly, West Sussex, and Tim Wonnacott explores the history of glass-making. (R)
- 2.15 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage from the Crucible Theatre, where the opening semi-final is set to come to a conclusion, with the players needing to reach 17 frames to progress. (R)
- 4.10 BBC News.**
4.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
4.30 Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland. (R)
- 5.10 Live Women's FA Cup Football.** Arsenal Women v Chelsea Ladies (kick-off 5.30pm). Coverage of the final, which takes place at Wembley Stadium, as the successors to Manchester City Women are crowned.
- 7.40 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the general knowledge quiz, featuring famous children's TV presenters including Andy Crane and Janet Ellis.
- 8.30 Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles presents the game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
- 9.15 Casualty.** Connie Beauchamp returns and wastes no time in reassessing her authority, taking over the care of a patient in resus and pitching her idea for a trauma theatre to Charlie.
- 10.05 BBC News; National Lottery Update.**
10.25 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including West Bromwich Albion v Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City v West Ham United.
- 11.45 The Button.** Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, whose members compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R)
- 12.15 FILM: When in Rome (2009).** An unlucky-in-love woman steals coins from a supposedly magical fountain in Italy and attracts a host of potential suitors. Romantic comedy, with Kristen Bell and Josh Duhamel.
- 1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
1.45 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities.** How nature has tinkered with the ageing process to different effect. (R)
- 6.40 Naomi's Nightmares of Nature.** Travels along the coastline of Australia, with Naomi Wilkinson. (R)
- 7.10 The Pets Factor.** James plays midwife to a pregnant pig.
- 7.30 The Denegeers.** Revisiting designs from the first two series.
- 8.00 Absolute Genius: Monster Builds.** Dick and Dom explore the engineering behind roller coasters and water slides.
- 8.30 Beyond Bionic.** Andy Torbet attempts to match the giant Japanese spider crab.
- 9.00 Robot Wars.** The youngest and biggest budget teams compete in the third round. (R)
- 10.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the penultimate session of the second semi-final at the Crucible Theatre, where eight frames are set to take place.
- 1.10 Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge.** Meat producers fight it out for a place in the final. (R)
- 2.10 Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge.** Four producers of drinks compete against each other for one place in the final. (R)
- 3.10 Love in the Countryside.** Sara Cox meets eight singletons living in the countryside as they begin their journey to find love. (R)
- 4.10 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents further coverage from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the opening semi-final is set to come to a conclusion.
- 6.00 The World's Most Extraordinary Homes.** Piers Taylor and Caroline Quentin head to Florida, to see how this hotbed of modernism has delivered some of the most glamorous and beautifully designed homes they have ever seen. (R)
- 7.00 Dad's Army.** Walmington-on-Sea's power and communications services are cut off, but Captain Mainwaring rises to the occasion by declaring martial law. Starring Arthur Lowe and Ian Lavender. (R)
- 7.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents the concluding session of the second semi-final, where the first player to reach 17 frames will progress.
- 10.00 FILM: Kajaki (2014).** A group of paratroopers are pushed to their limits while trying to find a safe route out of a minefield in Afghanistan. Fact-based thriller, starring David Elliot.
- 11.40 Michael Palin: A Life on Screen.** The actor and writer looks back on his career. Featuring classic clips from the archives and contributions from collaborators John Cleese, David Jason and Armando Iannucci. (R)
- 12.40 FILM: Easy Money II (2012).** A drug smuggler makes plans to go straight when he gets out of prison, but his past catches up with him. Crime thriller sequel, starring Joel Kinnaman and Matias Varela.
- 2.15 This Is BBC2.** prog

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Super 4 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Star Wars Freemaker Adventures 7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show 7.30 Teen Titans Go! 7.45 Adventure Time 8.00 Thunderbirds Are Go**
- 8.25 ITV News.**
8.30 Zoe Ball on Saturday. With Tony Audenshaw, David Morgan and Reef.
- 9.25 James Martin's Saturday Morning.** The TV chef invites celebrity guests Shane Filan and Jose Pizarro into his own home, and prepares chicken in lemon sauce and chocolate fondants with Guinnesse ice-cream.
- 11.20 Invitation to a Royal Wedding.** Trevor McDonald and Julie Etchingham present a look ahead to the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, and go behind the scenes on previous royal ceremonies. (R)
- 12.20 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
12.30 This Time Next Year. Featuring a lady who wants to be able to smile for the first time in 30 years. (R)
- 1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket.** Coverage of the Qipco 2,000 Guineas Stakes from Newmarket at 3.35 and support races at 1.50, 2.20, 2.55 and 3.35. Plus, from Goodwood, races at 2.05 and 2.40.
- 4.00 Tipping Point.** Game show. (R)
5.00 The Chase. Quiz show. (R)
6.00 ITV News and Weather.
6.15 ITV News Central; Weather.
6.30 Ninja Warrior UK. Gethin Jones, Jenni Falconer and Josh Cuthbert test their strength, speed and courage in this obstacle-course challenge, hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.
- 7.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** Jordan Stephens, Janet Street-Porter, Alex Brooker and Una Stubbs are tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion in the comedy panel show.
- 8.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the fourth heat of the talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts compete for the chance to win a cash prize and a slot at the Royal Variety Performance.
- 9.15 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** New series. Jeremy Clarkson hosts the first in a special week-long revival of the quiz celebrating its 20th anniversary, with contestants answering questions to win up to £1million.
- 10.20 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
10.35 FILM: Sex and the City 2 (2010). Fashion-conscious writer Carrie escapes the strain of married life with a disaster-strewn trip to Abu Dhabi. Comedy sequel, with Sarah Jessica Parker and Kristin Davis.
- 1.15 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Babushka.** Game show hosted by Rylan Clark-Neal in which contestants open a set of giant Russian nesting dolls, with some empty and others containing prizes up to £10,000. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 Motor Sport: British GT.** Action from Rockingham.
- 7.10 The King of Queens.** Doug and Carrie are invited to a wedding. (R)
- 7.35 The King of Queens.** Doug plans to watch the super Bowl. (R)
- 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra comes down with flu. (R)
- 8.25 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray grows envious of Robert's good looks. (R)
- 9.00 Frasier.** The Cranes take a trip in the Winnebago. (R)
- 9.30 Frasier.** The shrink composes a new theme tune. (R)
- 10.00 Frasier.** The radio shrink dates a former prom queen. (R)
- 10.30 The Big Bang Theory.** Leonard is invited to visit the Large Hadron Collider. (R)
- 11.00 The Big Bang Theory.** Sheldon misses an opportunity to meet Stan Lee. (R)
- 11.30 The Big Bang Theory.** The friends fight over a ring they believe was used in The Lord of the Rings. (R)
- 11.55 The Simpsons.** Bart creates a comic based on Homer. (R)
- 12.25 The Simpsons.** Homer is cursed by a gypsy. (R)
- 12.55 The Simpsons.** Moe refurbishes the bar. With the voices of REM. (R)
- 1.25 Come Dine with Me.** Four contestants host dinner parties in Birmingham. (R)
- 2.25 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Laura Hamilton helps a Nottingham man find his ideal Malta home. (R)
- 3.25 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun.** Searching for a home on Spain's Costa Blanca. (R)
- 4.30 Collection Hunters.** The work of people who specialise in tracking down missing items.
- 5.35 The Secret Life of the Zoo.** Pregnant giraffe Orla goes into labour. (R)
- 6.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 7.00 The Restoration Man: Best Builds.** George Clarke looks back at four dramatic tower conversions, including a Georgian windmill that became a family home, and a derelict water tower on the Settle to Carlisle line. (R)
- 8.00 Britain's Most Historic Towns.** Alice Roberts tells the story of the Regency period by studying the history of Cheltenham, Britain's most Regency town, investigating the rigid social hierarchy of the age.
- 9.00 FILM: Zoolander 2 (2016).** Premiere. A dim-witted supermodel must step back into the spotlight when a maniac starts murdering some of the world's most beautiful pop stars. Comedy sequel, starring Ben Stiller.
- 11.00 FILM: Ride Along (2014).** A tough cop takes his sister's boyfriend with him on duty, leading to a dangerous encounter with the city's most wanted criminal. Comedy, starring Ice Cube and Kevin Hart.
- 12.50 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA.** (R)
- 1.40 Hollyoaks.** Omnibus. Myra and Goldie uncover a secret about Prince and Lily. (R)
- 3.50 Come Dine Champion of Champions.** (R)
- 4.45 Gok's Fill Your House for Free.** (R)
- 5.40 Steph and Dom's One Star to Five Star.** (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Moxy 6.45 Simon 6.50 Peppa Pig 7.00 Paw Patrol 7.10 Thomas & Friends 7.20 Fireman Sam 7.35 Olly the Little White Van 7.50 Rusty Rivets 8.05 Paw Patrol 8.25 Nella the Princess Knight 8.40 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.50 Floogals 9.05 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.20 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.50 Peppa Pig 10.00 Peppa Pig Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Karai battles an old rival. (R)
- 10.40 The Gadget Show.** The G Team tests out a range of barbecues. (R)
- 11.30 Police Interceptors.** Dog handler Darren tries to end a rooftop stand-off. (R)
- 12.25 Police Interceptors.** A police chase ends with a crash. (R)
- 1.25 Police Interceptors.** The unit helps rescue a man pinned beneath a tractor. (R)
- 2.25 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A dispute with a neighbour descends into violence. (R)
- 3.20 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A woman terrorised by her neighbour for almost 10 years. (R)
- 4.20 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords.** Cases include a woman with rental arrears of almost £3,000. (R)
- 5.20 Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords.** A landlady inspects her property after her tenant, an extreme hoarder, dies. (R)
- 6.15 6.20 5 News Weekend.** Rich House, Poor House. Colin and Lizzy Whiting swap their five-bedroom house near Newquay to spend a week living in a two-bed property where the Timmins family live. (R)
- 7.20 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** In east London, High Court Enforcement Agents Paul and Phil are involved in a brothel eviction, while in south Wales, Stewart and Elmore chase a debt owed by a working mum. (R)
- 8.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Paul Bohill and Phil Short must deal with a negligent tenant who fled upon their arrival, while Brian O'Shaughnessy and Kevin Stokes chase a debt of £5,000. (R)
- 9.15 Secrets of Tutankhamun's Treasures.** The origins of the Egyptian pharaoh's iconic death mask, examining theories that many of the items he was buried with were hurriedly assembled after his unexpected death.
- 10.10 The Great Rameases: New Evidence Revealed.** New series. Series exploring famous people and places of ancient Egypt, beginning with Rameses II, who led his people to victory against the Hittites and was declared a living god.
- 11.10 Football on 5: Last Day of the Season.** Colin Murray introduces highlights of the final round of regular-season fixtures in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Bury and Coventry City v Morecambe.
- 12.10 4.00 4.45 5.10 5.35 SuperCasino.**
Billionaire Babies: 24 Carat Kids. (R)
House Doctor. (R)
Wildlife SOS. (R)
Nick's Quest. (R)



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Antiques Roadshow
8pm

Fiona Bruce presents the show from Helmingham Hall in Suffolk, where experts examine a medieval sword found in a pond, an Indian jewel and a collection of decorative boxes.


MOTD2 Extra
12pm

Mark Chapman presents football discussion with a line-up of guests, focusing on the headlines from yesterday's matches and news ahead of today's fixtures.


Little Big Shots
7pm

Dawn French hosts a variety show featuring a street dance crew, a nine-year-old boy who knows everything there is to know about Eurovision, and a world champion hen racer.


Homeland
9pm

Carrie and Saul's mission does not go as planned. Elizabeth Keane fights for her presidency. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin and Elizabeth Marvel. Last in the series.


The Adele Story
5.10pm

Documentary charting the career of pop and soul singer Adele, beginning with her time at the star-making Brit School through to the success of her albums 19, 21 and 25.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
- 7.35 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including West Bromwich Albion v Tottenham Hotspur and Leicester City v West Ham United. (R)
- 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.**
- 10.00 The Big Questions.** Nicky Campbell presents a discussion of masculinity from Oasis Academy MediaCity UK in Salford.
- 11.00 Sunday Politics West Midlands.** The week's events at Westminster, presented by Sarah Smith. Including a regional round-up.
- 12.15 Bargain Hunt.** Two teams test their antiques knowledge in Lincoln. (R)
- 1.00 BBC News; Weather.**
- 1.15 Escape to the Country.** Margherita Taylor goes horse hunting in Devon for a buyer with a £300,000 budget, and also visits the Pebblebed vineyards during a grape harvest. (R)
- 2.15 Money for Nothing.** Sarah Moore transforms items reclaimed from a tip. (R)
- 2.45 Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall.** Hugh turns his attention to the alarming amount of sugar found in fruit juices and smoothies, and also follows up on the weight loss challenge he set for the people of Newcastle. (R)
- 3.45 Points of View.** Viewers' comments.
- 4.00 Songs of Praise.** The second semi-final of the Young Choir of the Year competition.
- 4.35 Britain's Best Home Cook.** Domestic cooking contest. (R)
- 5.35 BBC News.**
- 5.50 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 6.00 The Big Painting Challenge.** The final comes from Chatham's historic dockyards, where the artists must paint a self-portrait before creating an artwork of their choice to impress the judges. Last in the series.
- 7.00 Countryfile.** Anita Rani is put through her paces with a Mountain Rescue team in Rothbury, Northumberland, hearing how new technology is helping search-and-rescue operations in the local area.
- 8.00 Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Helmingham Hall in Suffolk, where experts examine a medieval sword found in a pond, an Indian jewel and a collection of decorative boxes.
- 9.00 The Woman in White.** Marian overhears Percival and Fosco conspiring to seize Laura's inheritance after her death, but falls gravely ill before she can reveal what she has learned.
- 10.00 BBC News.**
- 10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.**
- 10.30 Match of the Day 2.** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, featuring highlights of Manchester City v Huddersfield Town, Arsenal v Burnley and Chelsea v Liverpool.
- 11.35 Reggie Yates: Life and Death in Chicago.** The broadcaster travels to Chicago to investigate gun crime in President Obama's adopted hometown to find out why so many of the victims are young African-American men. (R)
- 12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.**
- 12.40 BBC News.**

BBC2

- 6.05 Coast.** The Devon and Cornwall coastlines. (R)
- 6.35 Glorious Gardens from Above.** Horticulturist Christine Walkden visits Essex. (R)
- 7.20 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein.** The horticulturist creates colourful borders. (R)
- 7.50 Countryfile.** Matt Baker is in Cornwall, where he meets a blind man walking from Land's End to John o' Groats to raise money for charity, planning to catch the first day of spring at both points. (R)
- 8.45 The Beechgrove Garden.** Tall but thin trees ideal for small gardens.
- 9.15 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites.** Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from previous years in the kitchen.
- 10.45 Spring Kitchen with Tom Kerridge.** With guests Nick Knowles and Ching-He Huang. (R)
- 11.30 Lorraine Pascale: How to Be a Better Cook.** The food writer helps a woman who lacks the confidence to cook for anyone except herself. (R)
- 12.00 MOTD2 Extra.** Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
- 12.30 Badminton Horse Trials.** Clare Balding presents coverage of the fifth day of the event, with the show jumping segment deciding the final placings following the completion of the dressage and cross country.
- 2.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the opening session of the final at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first eight frames of the match are scheduled to take place. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
- 5.30 Badminton Horse Trials.** Further coverage of the fifth and final day of the event.
- 6.00 Athletics: Diamond League Doha Highlights.** Gabby Logan presents action from the opening Diamond League event of the season, held at the Hamad Bin Suhaim Stadium in Doha, Qatar.
- 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship.** Hazel Irvine presents all the action from the second session of the final at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre, where a further nine frames are scheduled to take place. Subsequent programmes subject to change.
- 11.00 Famalam.** Comedy sketch show.
- 11.20 Live at the Apollo.** Henning Wehn hosts tonight's show, which features performances from Lucy Porter and Guz Khan. (R)
- 12.05 FILM: Easy Money III: Life Deluxe (2013).** A criminal searches for his missing sister, while another prepares for the biggest heist of his career. Crime thriller sequel, starring Joel Kinnaman and Matias Varela.
- 2.05 Sign Zone: Question Time.** Topical debate from St Albans, Hertfordshire, chaired by David Dimbleby. (R)
- 3.05 Sign Zone: Holby City.** Fletch clashes with Abigail when an unexpected visitor turns up on the ward, and personal issues distract Nicky from her big case. (R)
- 4.05 This Is BBC2.**

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: Sooty 6.10 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.20 Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Super 4 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.25 The Tom and Jerry Show 7.30 Teen Titans Go! 7.45 Adventure Time 8.00 The Haunted Hathaways 8.25 ITV News.**
- 8.30 Zoe Ball on Sunday.** With Chris Hughes, Scott Mills, London Hughes and the Wombats.
- 9.25 Love Your Garden.** The team visits Canterbury to help a Gurkha. (R)
- 10.00 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine.
- 11.00 Britain's Got Talent.** Ant and Dec host the fourth heat of the nationwide talent search. (R)
- 12.15 Britain's Got More Talent.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the companion show to the talent competition. (R)
- 1.15 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket.** Including the 3.35 Qipco 1000 Guineas Stakes.
- 4.00 Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
- 5.00 The Chase Celebrity Special.** With Charlie Brooks, Richard Whitehead, Shappi Khorsandi and David Dickinson. (R)
- 6.00 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule.** Jordan Stephens, Janet Street-Porter, Alex Brooker and Una Stubbs are tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion in the comedy panel show. (R)
- 6.30 ITV News and Weather.**
- 6.45 ITV News Central; Weather.**
- 7.00 Little Big Shots.** Dawn French hosts a variety show featuring a street dance crew, a nine-year-old boy who knows everything there is to know about Eurovision, and a world champion hen racer.
- 8.00 The Durrells.** The family meets a travelling circus. Larry falls in love with a contortionist, while Margo takes to the ring in person to perform a very dangerous act. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** Jeremy Clarkson hosts the second edition in a special revival of the quiz to celebrate its 20th anniversary. More contestants sit in the hot seat, hoping to win the jackpot.
- 10.05 ITV News and Weather; Weather.**
- 10.20 Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with Allegra Stratton. (R)
- 11.20 The Royal Wives of Windsor.** Part one of two. Documentary exploring how the women who have married into the house of Windsor over the last century have transformed one of the most famous dynasties in the world. (R)
- 12.15 The Royal Wives of Windsor.** Part two of two. Exploring the responsibilities of being a royal wife. (R)
- 1.05 Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.00 Motorsport UK.** Richard John Neil presents action from Brands Hatch. (R)
- 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.** Text-based information service.

Channel 4

- 6.10 Mobil 1: The Grid.** Action from the RallyX on Ice in Norway.
- 6.40 MSA British Rally Championship.** The Pirelli International Rally.
- 7.05 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Debra ditched her old car. (R)
- 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond.** Ray discovers he has been duped. (R)
- 7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond.** The Barones' TV breaks down. (R)
- 8.25 Eat the Week.** Simon Rimmer offers advice on using spices. (R)
- 9.30 Sunday Brunch.** Frank Turner performs live in the studio.
- 12.30 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast.** Johnny Vegas joins hosts Jamie Oliver and Jimmy Doherty. (R)
- 1.30 The Simpsons.** Moe undergoes plastic surgery. (R)
- 2.00 The Simpsons.** With the guest voice of Britney Spears. (R)
- 2.30 FILM: Megamind (2010).** Animated superhero comedy, with the voice of Will Ferrell.
- 4.25 Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer go house hunting in Essex. (R)
- 5.30 Channel 4 News.**
- 6.00 Escape to the Chateau.** Fresh from the success of a wedding at the chateau, Dick and Angel make business plans for the grounds, intending to charge people to fish in the moat and forage in the woods. (R)
- 7.00 The Crystal Maze.** Richard Ayoade guides an AC/DC tribute band from Newcastle through the maze, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges. Last in the series.
- 8.00 Bake Off: The Professionals.** New series. Professional duos from across the UK go head to head, aiming to impress celebrated pastry chefs Cherish Finden and Benoît Blin, and progress to the next round.
- 9.00 Homeland.** Carrie and Saul's mission does not go as planned. Elizabeth Keane fights for her presidency. Last in the series.
- 10.15 Walter Presents: Tabula Rasa.** Belgian crime drama about a woman with amnesia who becomes a key figure in a missing persons case, and must recover her memories to prove her innocence. Starring Veerle Baetens. The full series will be available free to view or download on All 4 after broadcast.
- 11.15 FILM: Transporter 3 (2008).** Underworld courier Frank Martin transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked government minister across Europe. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham and Natalya Rudakova.
- 1.10 FILM: Ruston (2016).** Premiere. A naval officer murders his wife's lover in the 1950s, leading to a trial that takes India by storm. Fact-based courtroom drama, with Akshay Kumar and Ileana D'Cruz.
- 3.40 Mobil 1: The Grid.** Action from the RallyX on Ice in Norway. (R)
- 4.05 Gillette World Sport.** With cliff-diver Jonathan Paredes.
- 4.35 Kirstie's Vintage Gems.** Creating a romantic bedroom. (R)
- 4.50 Gok's Fill Your House for Free.** Gok Wan helps a couple living in a rented flat in London. (R)

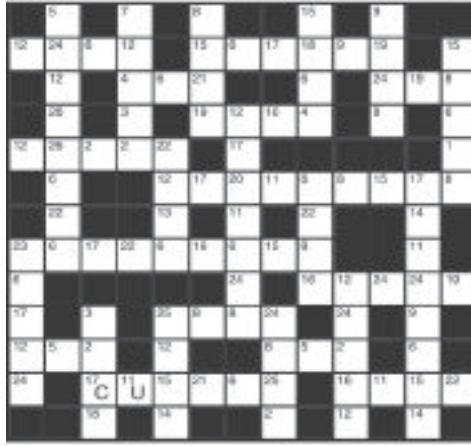
Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake! Little Princess 6.10 Wissper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Moxy 6.45 Peppa Pig 6.55 Paw Patrol 7.05 Thomas & Friends 7.15 Fireman Sam 7.30 Olly the Little White Van 7.35 Rusty Rivets 7.55 Paw Patrol 8.10 Nella the Princess Knight 8.25 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.45 Floogals 8.55 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.05 Shimmy and Shine 9.25 Digby Dragon 9.40 Peppa Pig 9.50 Peppa Pig Great Birmingham 10K Run. Helen Skelton presents live coverage of the Great Birmingham 10K.**
- 10.00 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud 2.** Another selection of the most popular videos featuring dogs. (R)
- 12.30 FILM: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1994).** Comedy, starring Jim Carrey. Pets Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos featuring animals. (R)
- 3.05 Cats Make You Laugh Out Loud 2.** Compilation of internet videos featuring animals. (R)
- 4.05 Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups.** Joe Pasquale celebrates the very best celebrity practical jokes. (R)
- 5.05 5 News Weekend.**
- 5.10 The Adele Story.** A profile of the chart-topping, Oscar-winning pop singer. (R)
- 6.30 Britain's Favourite Abba Songs.** A countdown of the Swedish pop group's 20 most popular songs, with celebrity fans including Jane McDonald and Liz McClarnon introducing their favourite clips. (R)
- 8.00 Eurovision Greatest Hits.** Cheryl Baker from Bucks Fizz narrates a countdown of the most memorable tracks from past song contests.
- 9.00 When Eurovision Goes Horribly Wrong.** Angela Rippon presents a guide to the song contest's most disastrous moments, featuring contributions from past performers including Dana, Sonia and Lindsay Dracass.
- 11.55 Football on 5: Last Day of the Season.** Colin Murray introduces highlights of the final round of regular-season Championship fixtures, including Sunderland v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Millwall v Aston Villa.
- 12.50 Criminals: Caught on Camera.** Journalist Nick Wallis joins police forces around the nation to discover how CCTV and technological advances are helping to bring criminals to justice. (R)
- 1.15 SuperCasino.** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
- 3.10 The Yorkshire Vet.** Peter Wright battles to save a young cow in labour, a hamster needs help with an ugly skin condition, and a rescue dog needs surgery for a growing lump. (R)
- 4.00 Tribal Teens.** British teenagers are challenged to live among the world's toughest tribes, tasked to survive in some of the planet's most extreme and hostile environments. (R)
- 4.45 House Doctor.** A cluttered B&B on the Norfolk coast. (R)
- 5.10 Wildlife SOS.** A fox cub displays worrying symptoms. (R)



Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | B | M | C | K | N | E | W | R | D | X | Q | T | V |
| 14 | I | Z | U | L | F | P | S | H | J | A | Y | G | O |

Quiz

- What is the USA's equivalent of the Epsom Derby?
- Who was the first woman, according to Greek mythology?
- Which former Middle East empire's capital was Nineveh?
- What sort of creature is a blue Tongue?
- Which Australian port is at the mouth of the Swan river?
- Which martial art's name is Japanese for 'gentle way'?
- Of what is the Bequaertiodon giganteum the world's largest?
- Which war opened with the Battle of Lexington and Concord?
- What was the Democratic Republic of the Congo called from 1971-97?
- What was the BBC's teletext service called?

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

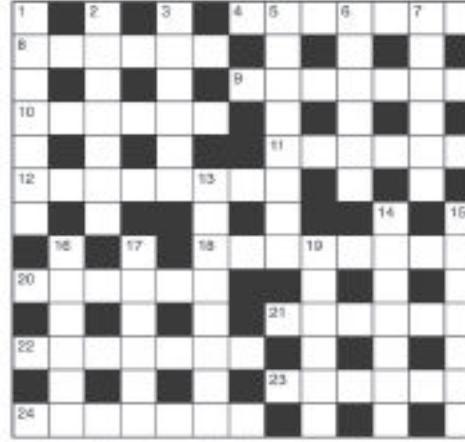
Cryptic Clues:**Across**

- Equitable method on the golf course? (7)
- Understanding about a boy (8)
- The pretentious fellow is out of bed to begin with (7)
- Italian can't be bothered about us (8)
- Did a staggering dance? (8)
- This material makes part of the body atrophy (8)
- Obese, and with a roll, he believes what will be will be (8)
- Succeed in making the fellow look older (8)
- He's used to slippery affairs (8)
- Desperate position in narrow channel (7)
- Nine to chart (6)
- Article on a divine finish in supplement (7)

| | |
|----|------|
| 1 | 14 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3 | 16 |
| 4 | 17 C |
| 5 | 18 |
| 6 | 19 |
| 7 | 20 |
| 8 | 21 |
| 9 | 22 |
| 10 | 23 |
| 11 | 24 U |
| 12 | 25 |
| 13 | 26 |

Down

- Speech is nothing to charge deserter with (7)
- Father's judicious journey (7)
- Kill graduate for his estate (8)
- Father is torn both ways, it would seem (8)
- Probably desert the female (8)
- Concurred it is a deadly sin (8)
- Boast by achievement, indeed (8)
- Fit coin into story (7)
- Began to recognize Edward as a top actor (7)
- With rugs entangled in thick mass (8)
- Rag about how old vehicle building is (8)
- Nine to chart (6)
- Making a request from the throne (8)

**Quick Clues:****Across**

- Diversity (7)
- Believed (8)
- Nomadic (7)
- Puma (8)
- Thorny (8)
- Contife (8)
- Intrude (8)
- Hue (8)
- Hi (8)
- Funny (7)
- Making a request from the throne (8)

Down

- Idea (7)
- Appetising (7)
- Leave (8)
- Hubris (8)
- Satirical (8)
- Buffeted (8)
- Irreducibil (8)
- Brutal (7)
- Endebit (7)
- Charish (8)
- Hold back (8)
- Long (7)

Sudoku

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Investments; 9 Rx; 10 trenchant; 11 Jester; 13 Student; 14 Chisel; 16 Matine; 18 Indiana; 19 Sonic; 20 Numerator; 21 Tap; 22 Snow leopard; Down: 2 Nap; 3 Estat; 4 Thesis; 5 Escalate; 6 Tragedies; 7 Projections; 8 Stethoscope; 12 Roundman; 15 Sparrow; 17 Battler; 19 Strip; 21 Tax; QUICK - Across: 1 Suppression; 9 Ease; 10 Quarrelsome; 11 Enemy; 13 Expenses; 14 Escort; 16 Entomist; 18 Impulse; 19 Tutor; 20 Universal; 21 Opt; 22 Incessantly; Down: 2 Use; 3 Pigmy; 4 Cleast; 5 Sharpener; 6 Out-and-out; 7 Deliberately; 8 Neverbent; 12 Exception; 15 Believe; 17 Virtuous; 19 Talor; 21 Oh.

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

46785365
1232485
9248

gives a leader,
gives a second leader,
gives a wise man.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

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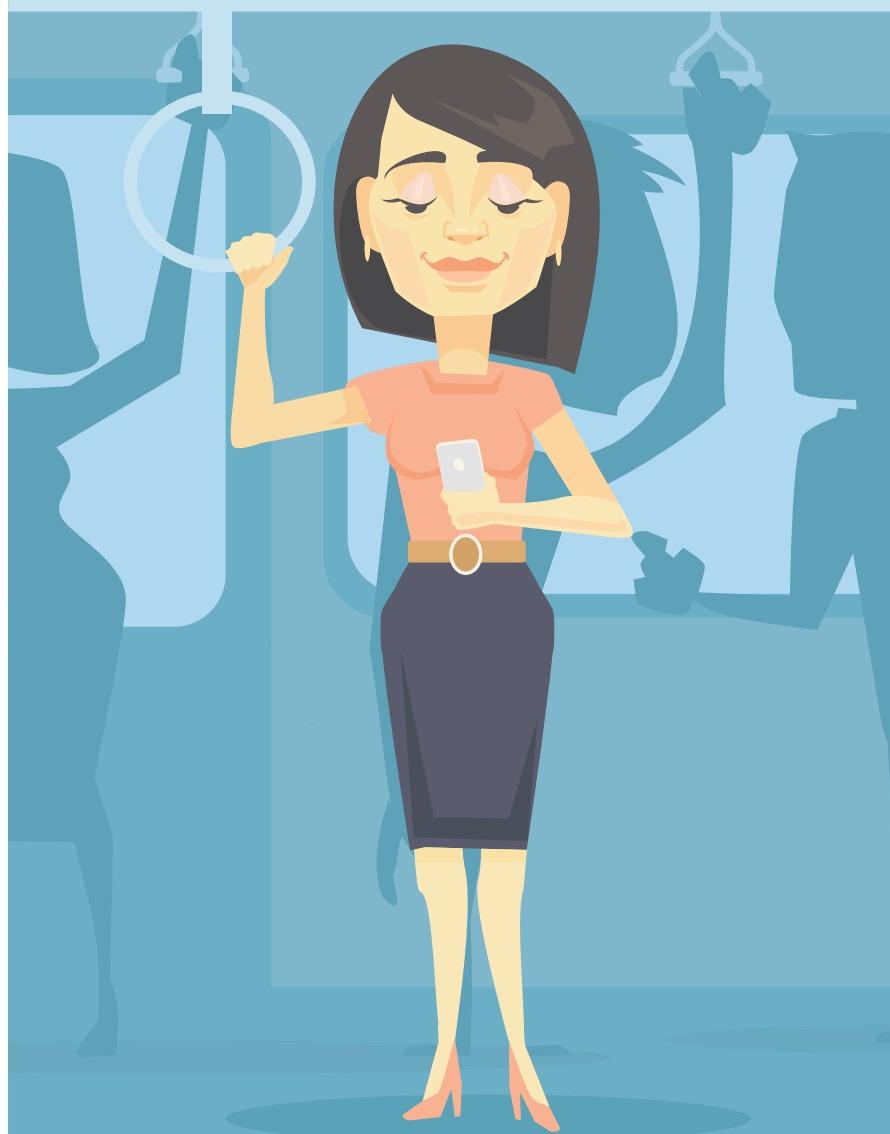
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|-------------------------|---------------------------|
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| £59.00 | £82.00 |
| £82.00 | £110.00 |

| | | |
|------------|--------|--------|
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| Wrexham | £45.00 | £54.00 |

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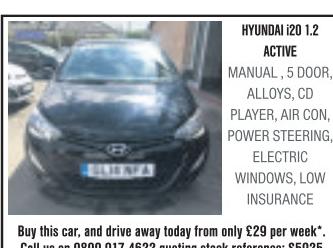
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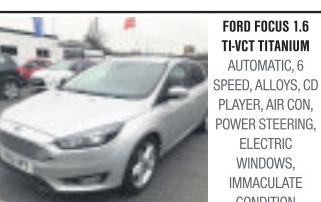
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Jeep will unveil a new version of the iconic Wrangler later this year and enthusiasts will be queuing up to get their hands on the first arrivals.

Somewhere out there thousands of Wrangler fans are keenly waiting for the opportunity to tackle another off-road adventure or impress their friends behind the wheel of this go-anywhere performer.

The Wrangler is now a million miles away from the model which captured our imagination on the big-screen when war films were all the rage and our hero invariably raced up at the wheel of an open-top Jeep.

But while technology has moved on in light years since then there is still no mistaking the Wrangler and a peek at the latest update which is being leaked at the world's motor shows proves Jeep is sticking to the old saying that if it isn't broken, don't fix it.

If you clock up thousands of miles each week, trekking the motorway networks of this great island, I suggest the Wrangler is not for you. It was never designed to win any prizes on a road but if you want to go up mountains or across streams this Jeep is a different class. In fact first class.

Building on legendary history the Wrangler delivers unmatched off-roading capabilities combined with a modern design which stays true to its origins – and then there's a host of advanced technology features bolted on for good measure.

We've just tested the current two-door version in 2.8 litre CRD automatic option which hits the road at £140 over £34,000, belches



Taking on water crossings

out CO2 emissions of 237g/km and will surprise if it achieves the claimed 31.4mpg on the combined cycle.

In five-speed auto mode this Wrangler had a top speed of 107mph, though thumping along the M54 at 70mph was probably as much as this driver felt entirely comfortable with. And 0-62mph in 10.6 seconds did mean burning off the diesel.

The test model looked impressive in bright white on 18inch polished satin alloys and full metal doors with roll-up windows, tubular side steps and transfer case skid shield. The three piece modular hard top came with body colouring and there were also body coloured wheel arches.

Inside the Wrangler is nothing like the model of old with full leather trim, a leather steering wheel, keyless entry, tyre pressure monitoring, on-the-move four wheel drive shift and hill start assist. There were also heated front seats, heated mirrors, power windows, cruise control and hill descent control.



It was never designed to win any prizes on a road but if you want to go up mountains or across streams this Jeep is a different class

The media centre included all the up-to-the-minute technology in a 6.5inch colour touchscreen with sat nav and USB connectivity so the mind starts to boggle at what delights the new model will offer. I hear we can expect fourth generation Uconnect systems and a bigger touchscreen with pinch and zoom capability.

And if it's remotely possible Jeep plan to improve the off-road capabilities with advanced 4x4 features, new Selec-Trac full-time two-speed transfer case, Tru-Lock electric front and rear axle lockers and Trac-Lok limited slip differential and sway-bar disconnect.

Only a Jeep anorak could begin to

understand what all that means but if it means an improvement to Jeep's off-road perfection it's nothing short of a miracle.

There's a world of off-roading opportunities just waiting to be explored in the Wrangler but if you're looking to impress on the school run this probably isn't the 4x4 you have been looking for.

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Diesel Selection

| | | |
|---|---------|--------|
| 18 (08) PEUGEOT 208 1.6 HDI GT-LINE, RIROCCA RED | DUE IN | £8,850 |
| 16 (16) NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI, TEKNA, FORCE RED | DUE IN | £9,450 |
| 15 (65) NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCI Acenta 16,000 Miles, Grey | £10,450 | |
| 15 (15) VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.6 CDTI TECH LINE White, 11,000 miles only | £8,995 | |
| 15 (15) KIA VENGA 2, 1.4 CRDI, only 4,000 miles | £9,450 | |
| 14 (64) NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI ACENTA Ink Blue | £11,950 | |
| 14 (14) KIA Ceed 2 1.6 CRDI Tech Red | £9,650 | |
| 14 (14) FORD MONDEO 1.6CDTi GRAPHITE Silver | £9,850 | |
| 14 (63) RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE M-NAV Flame Red | £8,975 | |
| 13 (63) VAUXHALL MOKKA 1.7 CDTI Exclusive Grey | £11,850 | |
| 13 (13) NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCI Acenta White | £7,650 | |
| 13 (13) NISSAN JUKE 1.5DCI ACENTA PREMIUM White | DUE IN | £8,950 |
| 12 (62) PEUGEOT 5008 1.6 HDI ACTIVE Silver | £8,950 | |
| 12 (12) SEAT IBIZA 1.2 TDI SE ECOMOTIVE Grey | £7,250 | |
| 11 (11) NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI ACENTA Force Red | £8,950 | |
| 10 (10) BMW 118D SPORT, 5 door, white | DUE IN | £8,950 |
| 10 (10) RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION Silver | £6,850 | |
| 10 (10) RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION Pearl Black | £6,850 | |
| 10 (60) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7 CDTI SRI Black | £4,850 | |
| 09 (59) NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI Acenta Cappuccino | £6,850 | |
| 09 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.7 CDTI DESIGN 5-dr. Silver | £4,650 | |
| 08 (58) VOLKSWAGEN JETTA 2.0 TDI SPORT Lovely Condition, Blue | £6,850 | |
| 08 (08) SKODA OCTAVIA 1.9 TDI CLASSIC Silver | £3,850 | |
| 05 (55) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI DESIGN Black | £3,250 | |

Petrol Selection

| | | |
|---|---------|--|
| 17 (66) PEUGEOT 208 1.2 Active, 9,000 miles | £9,450 | |
| 16 (66) KIA PICANTO 1.0L Air, 5 door, Blaze Red | £7,850 | |
| 14 (14) MINI ONE COUNTRYMAN (Pepper Pack) Light White | £10,450 | |
| 13 (63) KIA PICANTO 1L, Air, in silver, Low Miles | DUE IN | |

4x4 Selection

| | | |
|---|--------|--|
| 13 (63) VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.4 SE Blue | £8,950 | |
| 12 (12) KIA Ceed 2 1.6 Planet Blue | £6,950 | |
| 11 (61) CITROEN DS3 1.6 SPORT Grey | £5,850 | |
| 11 (11) MINI One 1.6, 3 Door, Pepper White | DUE IN | |
| 11 (11) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8 SRI Star Silver | £4,650 | |
| 10 (60) NISSAN JUKE 1.6 ACENTA Sport Blade Silver | £6,950 | |
| 10 (10) KIA PICANTO 1.1 STRIKE, Cool Blue, 20,000 miles | £3,850 | |
| 10 (10) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIC Tom Tom, 6,000 miles, Blue | £8,450 | |
| 10 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 SRI 5dr, 13,000 miles, Black | £8,950 | |
| 10 (10) VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5dr, 9,000 miles, Grey | £8,950 | |
| 09 (09) MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE Chilli pack, Horizon Blue | £9,650 | |
| 08 (08) MAZDA MX-5 2.0 NISEKO ROADSTER Silver | £7,650 | |
| 07 (07) PEUGEOT 207 CC Sport Convertible Red | £2,995 | |
| 06 (56) PEUGEOT 207 SE 16v 5-dr. Silver Grey, 9,000 miles | £5,650 | |
| 04 (04) AUDI A3 2.0 TDI SPORT Red | £4,850 | |
| 04 (04) MINI ONE, 1.6 3 door, Silver | £2,850 | |

Automatics

| | | |
|--|--------|--|
| 12 (12) FORD GALAXY 2.0 TDCi ZETEC 7 SEATER Silver | £9,250 | |
| 11 (11) VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SE Automatic, 3dr, Blue | £6,850 | |

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| 62 KIA SOUL CRDI, SILVER, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 32k | £6,695 |
| 11 VOLKSWAGEN POLO SEL TDI 90 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY £30 ROAD TAX 58k | £6,495 |
| 13 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION PLUS 16V 5 DOOR, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 42k | £5,995 |
| 63 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI 5 DOOR, GREY, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 34k | £5,995 |
| 15 PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER £0 ROAD TAX 27k | £5,995 |
| 62 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.7 CDTI 7 SEATS, SILVER, HEATED LEATHER SEATS, CLIMATE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY 67k | £5,495 |
| 09 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53k | £5,184 |
| 62 FORD KA ZETEC 1.2, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING £30 ROAD TAX 10k | £4,995 |
| 10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI 5 DOOR, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 58k | £4,995 |
| 61 CITROEN C4 1.6 HDI VTR+, 5 DOOR, METALLIC BLUE, AIR CON, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY | £4,995 |
| 14 FORD KA EDGE, WHITE £30 ROAD TAX 33k | £4,895 |
| 13 FIAT PUNTO JET BLACK, BLACK, 3 DOOR, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING 34K | £4,895 |
| 10 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 60K | SOLD |
| 10 CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDI, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL £20 ROAD TAX 52k | £4,695 |
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| 11 RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE TOMTOM, SILVER, £20 ROAD TAX 47k | £4,495 |
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| 14 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium X 5dr | £9,495.00 |
| 15 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Zetec 3dr | £7,995.00 |
| 66 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 82 Zetec 5dr | £9,995.00 |
| 60 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.4 Zetec 5dr | £4,995.00 |
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| 15 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium 5dr | £10,995.00 |
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| 64 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 125 Zetec 5dr Powershift | £9,995.00 |
| 64 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 1.6 TDCi Titanium Navigator ECOnetic 5dr | £9,695.00 |
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| 15 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost Titanium 5dr | £10,295.00 |
| 65 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium 3dr | £9,495.00 |
| 64 Reg FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.0 EcoBoost 125 Titanium X 5dr | £9,695.00 |
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| 15 Reg FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 2.0 EcoBoost ST-3 5dr | £18,995.00 |
| 65 Reg FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCi 185 ST-2 5dr | £15,995.00 |
| 70 Reg FORD FOCUS RS HATCHBACK 2.3 EcoBoost 5dr | £29,995.00 |
| 17 Reg FORD GALAXY DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCi 150 Titanium X 5dr Powershift | £24,495.00 |
| 15 Reg FORD GRAND C-MAX DIESEL ESTATE 1.6 TDCi Titanium 5dr | £11,695.00 |
| 66 Reg FORD KA+ HATCHBACK 1.2 85 Zetec 5dr | £8,995.00 |
| 67 Reg FORD KA+ HATCHBACK 1.2 85 Zetec 5dr | £8,995.00 |
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MOTRING



Lester Smout with his renovated transport coach

Classic motorsport coach back on road

A period motorsport transport coach, carefully and painstakingly restored after an eight-year project by a Telford man, has passed its MOT test and been back in action on the roads of Shropshire.

The coach is a 1964 Leyland Leopard Paxton Panorama model with a very special history and has been treated to a detailed and thorough renovation by retired builder Lester Smout, aged 66, of Walcot, near Wellington.

Starting life as a European Tour coach for Scottish company Cottons of Glasgow, the vehicle was bought in the late 1960s by well-known father and son Bentley racers David and Tim Llewellyn, who are still racing cars to this day.

They converted the passenger coach to load and carry a Bentley racing car in the rear, creating living and sleeping accommodation in the front and then subsequently drove to events all across Europe.

Disrepair

The special coach was then sold to fellow racing driver Martin Stretton, of Kidderminster, who again travelled to events far and wide across Europe and the UK for many years transporting a variety of his competition cars.

In later years, having been sold yet again, the coach was used for about five years to travel around country shows and festivals right across the Midlands with a huge display of model and toy cars displayed in exhibition racks in the rear.

Avid motoring enthusiast Lester happened across the coach, which had fallen into disrepair, some eight years ago and decided to start a project to restore it to its former glory, which he has now successfully accomplished.

Lester said: "It is a magnificent vehicle with such a fantastic heritage and although I have spent far too much money and too many hours on research and rebuilding, the end result and response from enthusiasts and all sorts of people makes everything worthwhile."

"We drove it on its inaugural journey to very popular Loton Park Hill Climb near Shrewsbury, carrying a classic Ford Escort competition car, which was then driven at the event by Hagley



Lester Smout revealing the fully restored interior



Ready for action, classic Ford Escort driver Chris Wright



The coach many years ago in its original Cottons of Glasgow livery

Car Club member Chris Wright, of Aston, who has given me great help and assistance with the whole project.

"The coach has an 11-litre Leyland 680 engine, with no synchromesh on the gears and no power steering, so it is somewhat of a challenge to drive, but we are getting used to it, very slowly!"

"The back end lifts completely and the floor has been strengthened to carry the car, with hydraulic ramps for

loading, while the interior has been completely refurbished to provide versatile seating which converts to sleeping arrangements and we have also created a small kitchen area.

"As this coach has such a pedigree we are hoping to attend some of the big classic motoring events around the UK this year such as the Goodwood Festival of Speed and the Silverstone Classic Weekend and I am sure it will prove to be a great attraction for any motoring fans."

How they stand

Sky Bet League One

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|---------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Wigan Athletic | 45 | 28 | 11 | 6 | 88 | 29 | 95 |
| Burnley | 45 | 27 | 12 | 6 | 80 | 39 | 93 |
| Shrewsbury Town | 45 | 25 | 12 | 8 | 60 | 30 | 87 |
| Rotherham United | 45 | 23 | 7 | 15 | 72 | 53 | 76 |
| Charlton Athletic | 45 | 20 | 11 | 14 | 58 | 50 | 71 |
| Scunthorpe United | 44 | 18 | 16 | 10 | 62 | 49 | 70 |
| Plymouth Argyle | 44 | 19 | 11 | 14 | 56 | 52 | 68 |
| Peterborough United | 45 | 17 | 13 | 15 | 68 | 58 | 64 |
| Portsmouth | 45 | 19 | 6 | 20 | 55 | 58 | 63 |
| Southend United | 45 | 17 | 11 | 17 | 58 | 62 | 62 |
| Bradford City | 44 | 18 | 15 | 15 | 55 | 65 | 61 |
| Blackpool | 45 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 55 | 60 | 60 |
| Bristol Rovers | 45 | 16 | 10 | 19 | 60 | 66 | 58 |
| Oxford United | 45 | 15 | 11 | 19 | 60 | 64 | 56 |
| Doncaster Rovers | 44 | 13 | 16 | 15 | 52 | 51 | 55 |
| Fleetwood Town | 45 | 15 | 9 | 21 | 57 | 58 | 64 |
| Gillingham | 45 | 12 | 17 | 16 | 45 | 53 | 53 |
| Walsall | 44 | 13 | 12 | 19 | 52 | 63 | 51 |
| AFC Wimbledon | 44 | 13 | 12 | 19 | 45 | 56 | 51 |
| Oldham Athletic | 45 | 11 | 16 | 18 | 56 | 73 | 49 |
| Rochdale | 45 | 10 | 18 | 17 | 48 | 57 | 48 |
| Northampton Town | 45 | 12 | 10 | 23 | 41 | 75 | 46 |
| Milton Keynes Dons | 45 | 10 | 12 | 23 | 42 | 69 | 42 |
| Bury | 45 | 8 | 11 | 26 | 39 | 69 | 35 |

Vanarama National

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Macclesfield Town | 46 | 27 | 11 | 8 | 67 | 46 | 92 |
| Tamworth | 46 | 24 | 10 | 12 | 78 | 46 | 82 |
| Sutton United | 46 | 20 | 13 | 13 | 67 | 53 | 79 |
| Boreham Wood | 46 | 20 | 15 | 11 | 64 | 75 | 75 |
| Aldershot Town | 46 | 19 | 20 | 11 | 64 | 75 | 74 |
| Ebbw Vale United | 46 | 19 | 10 | 20 | 50 | 50 | 74 |
| AFC Fylde | 46 | 20 | 13 | 13 | 82 | 56 | 73 |
| Dover Athletic | 46 | 20 | 13 | 13 | 62 | 44 | 73 |
| Bromley | 46 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 75 | 58 | 70 |
| Wrexham | 46 | 17 | 19 | 10 | 49 | 39 | 70 |
| Dagenham & Redbridge | 46 | 19 | 11 | 16 | 69 | 62 | 88 |
| Maidstone United | 46 | 17 | 13 | 16 | 65 | 64 | 84 |
| Maidenhead United | 46 | 17 | 13 | 16 | 58 | 58 | 84 |
| Leyton Orient | 46 | 16 | 12 | 18 | 58 | 58 | 80 |
| Eastleigh | 46 | 13 | 17 | 16 | 65 | 72 | 56 |
| Hartlepool United | 46 | 14 | 14 | 18 | 53 | 63 | 86 |
| FC Halifax Town | 46 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 48 | 58 | 55 |
| Gateshead | 46 | 12 | 18 | 16 | 62 | 58 | 54 |
| Solihull Moors | 46 | 14 | 12 | 20 | 49 | 54 | 54 |
| Maidstone United | 46 | 13 | 15 | 18 | 52 | 64 | 54 |
| Barrow | 46 | 11 | 16 | 19 | 51 | 65 | 49 |
| Woking | 46 | 13 | 9 | 24 | 55 | 76 | 48 |
| Torquay United | 46 | 10 | 12 | 24 | 53 | 73 | 42 |
| Chester | 46 | 8 | 13 | 25 | 42 | 79 | 37 |
| Guiseley | 46 | 7 | 12 | 27 | 44 | 89 | 33 |

Vanarama National North

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|----|
| Salford City | 42 | 28 | 7 | 7 | 80 | 45 | 91 |
| Harragate Town | 42 | 26 | 7 | 9 | 100 | 49 | 85 |
| Brackley Town | 42 | 23 | 11 | 8 | 72 | 37 | 80 |
| Kidderminster Harriers | 42 | 20 | 12 | 10 | 76 | 50 | 72 |
| Stockport County | 42 | 20 | 9 | 13 | 75 | 57 | 69 |
| Chorley | 42 | 18 | 14 | 10 | 52 | 38 | 69 |
| Bradford (Park Avenue) | 42 | 18 | 9 | 15 | 66 | 56 | 63 |
| Spennymoor Town | 42 | 18 | 9 | 15 | 71 | 67 | 63 |
| Boston United | 42 | 17 | 9 | 16 | 67 | 66 | 60 |
| Blyth Spartans | 42 | 19 | 2 | 21 | 76 | 59 | 59 |
| York City | 42 | 16 | 10 | 16 | 65 | 62 | 58 |
| Darlington | 42 | 14 | 13 | 15 | 58 | 55 | 55 |
| Southport | 42 | 14 | 8 | 20 | 60 | 72 | 50 |
| FC United of Manchester | 42 | 14 | 8 | 20 | 50 | 72 | 50 |
| Afferton Town | 42 | 14 | 7 | 21 | 67 | 71 | 49 |
| Curzon Ashton | 42 | 12 | 13 | 17 | 52 | 66 | 49 |
| Leamington | 42 | 13 | 10 | 19 | 51 | 65 | 49 |
| Gainsborough Trinity | 42 | 14 | 4 | 24 | 47 | 73 | 46 |
| Tanworth | 42 | 11 | 9 | 22 | 55 | 77 | 42 |
| North Ferriby United | 42 | 4 | 9 | 29 | 25 | 101 | 21 |

Evo-Stik League

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|
| Altrincham | 45 | 28 | 11 | 7 | 101 | 42 | 95 |
| Aston United | 46 | 23 | 13 | 10 | 85 | 59 | 92 |
| Warrington Town | 46 | 23 | 13 | 10 | 72 | 49 | 92 |
| Grantham Town | 46 | 20 | 13 | 17 | 90 | 51 | 81 |
| Farlsby Celtic | 46 | 12 | 13 | 12 | 69 | 69 | 80 |
| Shaw Lane AFC (-3) | 46 | 25 | 7 | 14 | 72 | 69 | 79 |
| Winton Albion | 46 | 19 | 13 | 14 | 63 | 63 | 70 |
| Rushall Olympic | 46 | 19 | 9 | 18 | 73 | 79 | 66 |
| Buxton | 46 | 17 | 13 | 16 | 71 | 66 | 64 |
| Barwell | 46 | 17 | 13 | 16 | 65 | 67 | 64 |
| Stourbridge | 46 | 16 | 14 | 16 | 67 | 65 | 62 |
| Workington | 46 | 18 | 8 | 20 | 72 | 62 | 60 |
| Mickleover Sports | 46 | 16 | 13 | 17 | 68 | 61 | 61 |
| Stafford Rangers | 46 | 16 | 13 | 17 | 54 | 58 | 61 |
| Matlock Town | 46 | 18 | 6 | 22 | 69 | 75 | 60 |
| Nantwich Town | 46 | 16 | 9 | 21 | 62 | 72 | 57 |
| Hednesford Town | 46 | 15 | 12 | 19 | 60 | 79 | 57 |
| Lancaster City | 46 | 14 | 13 | 19 | 66 | 72 | 55 |
| Marine | 46 | 14 | 11 | 21 | 67 | 68 | 57 |
| Coalville Town | 46 | 15 | 7 | 24 | 70 | 92 | 52 |
| Whitby Town | 46 | 12 | 14 | 20 | 60 | 82 | 50 |
| Stalybridge Celtic | 46 | 14 | 6 | 26 | 57 | 90 | 48 |
| Halesowen Town (-4) | 46 | 13 | 10 | 23 | 48 | 76 | 51 |
| Sutton Coldfield Town (-1) | 46 | 10 | 6 | 30 | 52 | 60 | 35 |

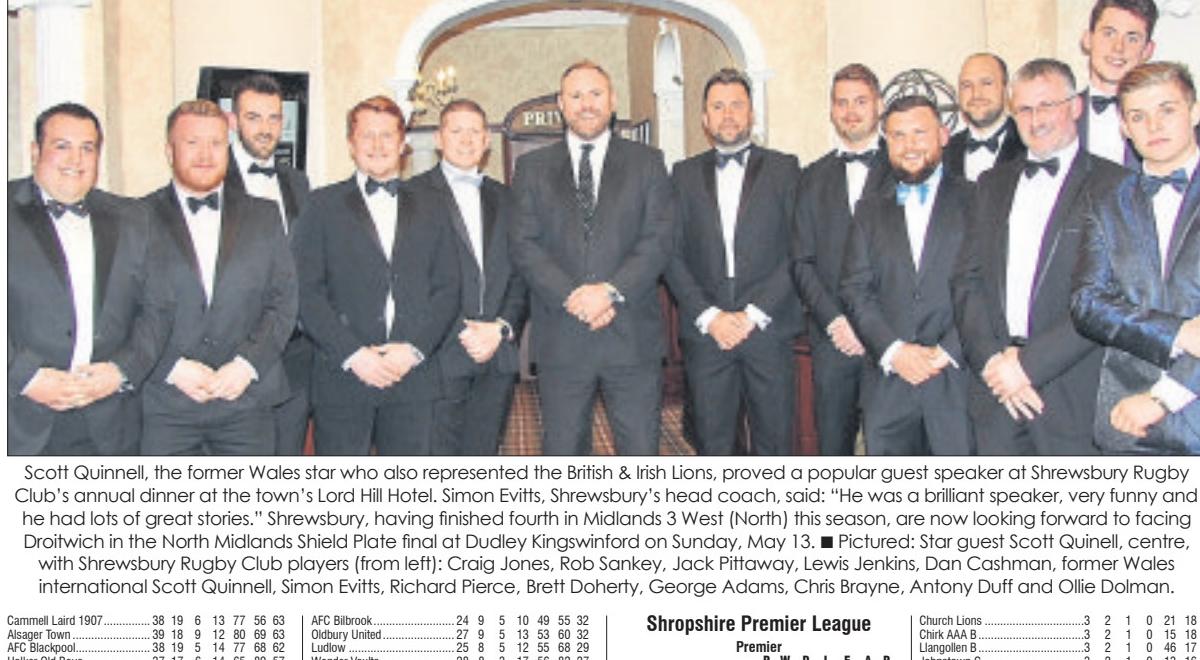
Division One South

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|----|-----|
| Basford United | 42 | 31 | 7 | 4 | 101 | 42 | 100 |
| Alvechurch | 42 | 25 | 10 | 7 | 78 | 49 | 85 |
| Frickley Athletic | 42 | 26 | 7 | 9 | 117 | 62 | 76 |
| Bedworth United | 42 | 22 | 8 | 12 | 73 | 58 | 74 |
| Chasetown | 42 | 22 | 7 | 13 | 83 | 64 | 73 |
| Stamford | 42 | 19 | 14 | 6 | 66 | 34 | 71 |
| Leek Town | 42 | 20 | 8 | 14 | 80 | 58 | 68 |
| Lincoln United | 42 | 21 | 5 | 16 | 85 | 81 | 68 |
| Corby Town | 42 | 18 | 6 | 18 | 74 | 75 | 60 |
| Cleethorpes Town | 42 | 18 | 13 | 11 | 82 | 55 | 73 |
| Stockbridge Park Steels | 42 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 70 | 53 | 73 |
| Peterborough Sports | 42 | 15 | 6 | 20 | 70 | 78 | 51 |
| Spalding United | 42 | 13 | 8 | 20 | 52 | 62 | 50 |
| Loughborough Dynamo | 42 | 13 | 10 | 19 | 61 | 69 | 49 |
| Shifnal | 42 | 10 | 12 | 9 | 21 | 46 | 90 |
| Belper Town | 42 | 12 | 9 | 21 | 46 | 90 | 45 |
| Gresley | 42 | 10 | 21 | 19 | 91 | 93 | 43 |
| Kidsproxie Athletic | 42 | 11 | 9 | 22 | 70 | 90 | 42 |
| Carlton Town | 42 | 10 | 11 | 21 | 66 | 74 | 71 |
| Newcastle Town | 42 | 10 | 9 | 23 | 49 | 73 | 79 |
| Market Drayton Town | 42 | 10 | 9 | 23 | 51 | 97 | 39 |
| Romulus | 42 | 8 | 11 | 23 | 57 | 94 | 35 |

Hallmark Security League

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|--------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|----|
| First Division | 39 | 31 | 4 | 4 | 98 | 93 | 37 |
| Silsden AFC | 40 | 30 | 5 | 5 | 110 | 36 | 95 |
| Litherland REMYA | 38 | 26 | 3 | 7 | 117 | 44 | 87 |
| Prestwich Heys | 38 | 28 | 3 | 7 | 117 | 44 | 87 |
| Whitchurch Airport | 39 | 26 | 3 | 10 | 86 | 35 | 81 |
| Sandbach United | 39 | 24 | 3 | 12 | 83 | 53 | 75 |

*3 points deducted



Scott Quinnell, the former Wales star who also represented the British & Irish Lions, proved a popular guest speaker at Shrewsbury Rugby Club's annual dinner at the town's Lord Hill Hotel. Simon Evitts, Shrewsbury's head coach, said: "He was a brilliant speaker, very funny and he had lots of great stories." Shrewsbury, having finished fourth in Midlands 3 West (North) this season, are now looking forward to facing Droitwich in the North Midlands Shield Plate final at Dudley Kingswinford on Sunday, May 13.

Pictured: Star guest Scott Quinnell, centre, with Shrewsbury Rugby Club players (from left): Craig Jones, Rob Sankey, Jack Pittaway, Lewis Jenkins, Dan Cashman, former Wales international Scott Quinnell, Simon Evitts, Richard Pierce, Brett Doherty, George Adams, Chris Brayne, Antony Duff and Ollie Dolman.

Vanarama National

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | P |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Macclesfield Town | 46 | 27 | 11 | 8 | 67 | 46 | 92 |
| Tamworth | 46 | 24 | 10 | 12 | 78 | 46 | 82 |

Whittington hit top spot as weather has a say

WHITTINGTON A cemented their place among the early front runners in the Oswestry and District Bowling League division one with a closely fought 7-3 home victory over Chirk A.

Aled Davies (21-7) and Ben Hampson (21-8) both led the way with fine single figure wins as the hosts took the aggregate by just six shots (135-129) on a rain-soaked night.

Ade Humphreys (21-7) was the best of the replies for Chirk in the only top flight encounter to beat the wet weather.

The win was enough to take Whittington top of the table, with several matches succumbing to waterlogged greens including Church A's trip to Criftins A.

The second division did not fare much better in miserable conditions, with Church B's home fixture against Plas Kynaston A called off, along with George versus Johnstone B and Llangynog A against Ellesmere A.

The following night, with improved conditions, Weston Rhyn A moved top of the table on shots after a 5-5 draw at Criftins C.

Rhyn had been ahead on games, but lost the shots by eight (143-135) to return with a share of the spoils, Andrew Riley notching their best result with a 21-6 verdict.

Ross Rogers was the pick of the Dudleston Heath hosts when prevailing 21-7.

Ye Olde Crofte A succumbed 8-2 (146-124) at Johnstone D, their two winners being Gareth Parry and Steve Thomas who both prevailed to 10.

Whittington B are the leaders of division three after their 8-2 (158-106) home victory against Church C 2 (105) helped by good single figure wins from Brian Sinker and Kevin Williams to two and seven respectively.

They are a point clear of Church Lions who moved second after seeing off Llangollen B 6-4 on home soil, taking the aggregate by just four (136-132). Mark Jones (21-9) gained their best result.

In division four, Weston Rhyn B stayed among the leading contenders following their 8-2 (154-115) beating of Overton A, with Alex Eddy winning 21-7 and Roger Pugh to eight.

Ifton looking to get on roll after loss No3

IFTON continue to prop up the Salop Leisure Shropshire Premier Bowls League after suffering their third defeat in their opening four matches.

The St Martins side were edged out 10-6 at home to basement rivals Meole Brace who prevailed by just three shots (213-210) after the sides had finished with six winners apiece.

It's been a disappointing start for Ifton who lie at the foot of the table, one point adrift of Chester Road, and they will be looking for a change of fortunes in Friday night's trip to another of the lowly sides, Bylet.

Their hosts lie two places above after their 11-3 (240-149) setback at second placed Newport.

Ifton had two good single figure winners against Meole, with Craig Griffiths and Leighton Roberts both winning 21-9. Griffiths has now won three of his opening four matches.

Andrew Hughes prevailed to 13, while Brian Hayes, Martin Jones and Nathan Lacey all won 21-19.

However, their efforts were not enough to stop Meole Brace from taking the aggregate, helped by a 21-9 success from Doug Edwards.

At the other end of the table, Sir John Bayley continue to set the pace, lying two points clear at the top after their 10-4 (243-201) home success over Hanwood.

However, an excellent innings from keeper John

Tennis team net draw in first game

THE men's first team were the first out of the traps when Oswestry Tennis Club commenced their new season in the Shropshire Summer Doubles League with a 2-2 draw at Bridgnorth III.

Captained this season by Martin Shorrt, who has recently joined the club when relocating to the area from Portsmouth, it was a creditable start to division three against their county rivals.

In the first round rubbers, Shorrt, partnered by Oliver Tombs, dropped the first set 6-7 on a tie break, then took the second set 6-3 before the home side narrowly won on a deciding third tie break.

The second pairing of Gary Edwards and Matt

Grice won their first rubber in straight sets 6-4, 6-3 against the opposing second pair.

In the reverse rubbers, Shorrt and Tombs were too strong for their opposition and prevailed 6-3, 6-3.

Edwards and Grice dropped the first set to the Bridgnorth first pair 2-6 but they fought gallantly in the second set taking it to a tie break before just losing out 6-7.

The men's third team, captained this season by Richard Hann, played their first fixture in the men's division 6N away to local opponents OTT, a team of very capable junior players.

In the first round rubbers against their Oswestry

rivals, Hann, partnered by Keith Grice, quickly dropped the first set 1-6 before regaining their composure to win the second set 6-3. This took the rubber to a deciding third set tie break which they narrowly lost 0-1.

The second pair of Lowell Lloyd and Nick Elliott also dropped their first set 2-6 before fighting back to take the second 6-1 and winning their deciding third set tie break 1-0.

In the reverse rubbers, Hann and Grice won in two very closely contested sets 6-3, 7-6, but Lloyd and Elliott went down in straight sets 2-6, 5-7.

Each team gain two points.

Nine-try Eagles fly to emphatic victory

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

THE tries flowed as Oswestry proved too strong for struggling Oldershaw in rugby's South Lancs and Cheshire Two by running out emphatic 57-0 winners at Granville Park.

Looking to get back to winning ways, the Eagles were soon in charge against their rock bottom visitors - and went on to cross the line nine times, with Noah Chunsi adding six conversions.

Despite the bonus point win, they remain 10th, and with two games remaining - the next away to Aspull on Saturday, May 12.

Oswestry were soon in charge, and went over for a first try when scrum half Nick Clay fed Luca Owen-Youens whose pace took him over in the corner for an unconverted score.

The Eagles continued to turn up the early pressure, and a second try arrived when Scott Smith ripped the ball out of his counterpart's grasp before charging over for a 10-0 lead.

A loose ball then saw Nikola Nikolov collect and run over with his pace and skill for a third unconverted try of the afternoon.

Oldershaw tried to battle back as they crept into the home side's half, but found no way through a tight defence.

Bonus point

The Eagles were back on the attack again and, after another line-out won by Gareth Ellis, the ball was spun to Fabrizio Gaito who sped over for a bonus point try, with Chunsi adding the extras.

Oswestry extended their lead just before half time when some quick passing by the backs saw Jack Charmley cross for a converted try for a 29-0 interval lead.

The second half continued in similar vein despite the visitors' efforts, with the home side adding a sixth touchdown when Ellis won good line-out ball and Scott Smith charged over for his second score, with Chunsi adding the conversion.

Andrew Merritt then went on a good run before passing the ball to Liam Williams who raced over from half way for another try, again converted by Chunsi. A melee started by the visitors ended with Oswestry's Guy Howell picking up yellow card for what appeared to be defending his own player.

Despite this, the Eagles bagged an eighth



Jump to it! Oswestry's Gaz Ellis takes the line-out ball at Granville Park. ■ Picture: Martin Ord.

touchdown when good interplay by Andrew Merritt and Owen-Youens got the ball to Nikolov who ran in his second try, once again converted by Chunsi.

With Oswestry back to full strength, a charging run by Andrew Smith released Owen-Youens to score his second try, and the ninth of the day, with Chunsi adding the kick to make it 57-0.

Despite the scoreline, Oldershaw did not give up,

but the home wall of red and black prevented a consolation try.

It was a good performance by all the team with Chunsi landing 12 points with the boot, while man-of-the-match was given to Nikola Nikolov.

Meanwhile, Oswestry II conceded their fixture after failing to raise a team for their trip to Marple in the North West League division four (south).

Skipper hits fifty but Glas slip to defeat

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

Weaver of 74, supported by an aggressive 41 from Brad Summer, took the game away from the visitors, and despite a late flurry of wickets, the home side reached their target with 10 overs to spare.

Pick of the Cae Glas bowlers were Gary Davies with 2-21 off seven overs and Nick Broadbent, also with two wickets, but too many bad balls early in the inning meant the damage had been done.

The Glas will be hoping for a tighter bowling performance when they entertain Prees at Gatacre on Saturday.

Cae club's second XI fixture against Market Drayton was called off because of a waterlogged pitch.

KNOCKIN and Kinnerley ran out five wickets winners in a low scoring affair against Beacon at the Nursery Ground in division one.

Put in to bat, Shrewsbury side Beacon were dismissed for 75 in 37 overs, Joel Bishton top scoring on 23 while Josh Keys picked up 4-18.

Knockin were made to work in reply before getting over the line for the loss of five wickets helped by 24 extras.

Knockin & Kinnerley II crashed to a 185-run loss at Worfield in the 2nd XI division one, after being sent back for 123 in response to the hosts' daunting 308-8 declared. Thomas Rees smashed 73 and Dan Gormley 50 for Worfield, William Morris taking 3-25 for the visitors whose Bluey Thomas top scored with 37 in reply.

MONTGOMERY are still seeking their first action of the season after their second division trip to Shifnal was called off, while Guisfield's trip to Corvedale also succumbed to a waterlogged pitch. Those teams picked up five points each.

Recent rain saw a number of games abandoned for the second week running due to waterlogged pitches.

FRANKTON II slipped to a nine wicket loss against Sentinel II in the 2nd XI League division one after being skittled for 34 at Hardwick Park. Will James picked up the only wicket to fall in reply.

Ellesmere hit top spot as keeper hits half-century

ELLESMORE are the early front runners in the Shropshire Cricket League division two after making it back-to-back wins with a six wicket success at Wheaton Aston.

Tight bowling restricted their hosts to 104-9 in 35 overs, with George Duncan picking up 4-24 and Joe Austin 3-22.

In reply, Ellesmere got home with time and wickets to spare courtesy of a fine unbeaten 56 from wicketkeeper Kieran Barry.

WELSHPOOL suffered a seven-wicket defeat at Pontesbury in their first action in division one.

They struggled to 83 all out in 33.4 overs, Paul Chapman providing some resistance with 27 and tailender Greg Jones 13, while Stephen Wilson grabbed 4-22 in 12 overs.

Target

Despite losing three early wickets, opener Owen Morris hit an undefeated 53 to guide Pontesbury to their modest target. Joe Monk took 2-20 and Robert Anderson the other wicket.

OSWESTRY III held out for a losing draw against Trysull and Seisdon in division four with their last pair at the crease at Morda Road.

Put in to bat, Trysull compiled 177-9 in 40 overs, Andrew Kirby top scoring on 31 while Stuart Owen snapped up 4-40 from nine overs and Harry Darley 2-28.

In reply, the home side finished on 112-9, with opening bat Neil Darley digging in for an unbeaten 25 to frustrate the visitors for whom Kirby took 3-5.

Seconds are undone by girl-power

AN unbeaten century from opener Evelyn Jones sent Oswestry II slipping to a 148-run reverse at home to their Whitchurch counterparts in the opening action in the Birmingham League 2nd XI division two (north).

Jones carried her bat for an undefeated 118 as Whitchurch racked up 283-2 in 45 overs, John Huskisson also weighing in with 77 not out. There was a wicket apiece for Rob Pengelly and Matthew Davies.

The Morda Road side were then sent back for 135 in reply, Luke Jones top scoring with 60, while Jack Batkin (3-28) and Megan Jones (3-29) both claimed three victims.

Oswestry finished with just two points and will look for improvements at home to Smethwick on Saturday.

COBRA book spot in final

COBRA'S youngsters stand one game away from lifting the North Wales Youth Plate after booking their place in the final with a last gasp 22-19 win against Ruthin.

Captain and No8 Lee Hughes went over for the winning try in the dying moments to clinch a thrilling victory for the Meifod lads who will now take on Denbigh in the final at Bangor on Sunday with a 2pm kick off.

A hard-fought and sometimes niggly affair saw COBRA play most of the second half with 14 men following a red-card, but they showed terrific character to prevail.

Centre Deniol Jones and scrum half Jac Roberts got the other tries, both converted by fly half Will Worthington who also landed a penalty.

Sunday's final pits together the top two sides in the qualifying group, so promises to be another closely fought affair.

Six of the best looks enough for promotion

ST MARTINS look to be on course for promotion from the West Midlands League division one following their 6-1 romp against Bromyard Town at Morda's Weston Road ground.

After their 3-1 victory over Worcester Raiders two nights before, the Saints - despite some tired legs - followed it up with another victory that sees them seal fourth place. That should be enough to see them promoted to the North West Counties League division one next season.

The Saints now turn their thoughts to the league cup with a second round meeting against Gornal Athletic on Thursday night at Park Hall, before bringing the curtain down on their league campaign away to Newport Town next Monday.

They were soon in control against Bromyard and never looked back after taking a third minute lead when Shawn Melusi tucked away the rebound from a Dave Hartshorn shot.

The hosts continued to press, and doubled their advantage on 18 minutes when Harrison Millington finished off a slick team move down the right.

Brendon Price made it 3-0 with another terrific finish just a minute later, and Melusi then got his second with a 12-yard strike on the half hour. The goals continued with Hartshorn tapping in from a Melusi pass for a 5-0 interval lead, before Tom Ash nodded in a sixth midway through the second period.

Keeper George Austin was called into action a couple of times at the other end, but he was beaten in the last minute as the Herefordshire side gained some consolation.

This game was the third in five days for the St Martins side, who won 3-1 against Worcester Raiders two days before with Shawn Melusi scoring twice, and Harrison Millington getting the other.

That followed a narrow 1-0 loss to high flying Wem who wrapped up the league title courtesy of their 1-0 win at Park Hall.

Barton bags hat-trick for the Reserves

SEASONED striker Danny Barton bagged a hat-trick to keep alive Guilsfield reserves' title chances in the Montgomeryshire League division one title with a 4-3 victory against Llanfyllin Town.

The win sees the Guils consolidate second position, three points behind leaders Bishop's Castle, but with a game in hand.

Castle finished 3-3 at home to third placed Four Crosses in the big game of the day after clawing their way back from a three goal deficit. Crosses are now eight points off the pace, and five points adrift of Guilsfield.

A few days before Four Crosses were frustrated after being held 3-3 by Trewern United whose Shaun Roberts scored two of the goals and Barry Haralambous getting the other.

Ashley Davies bagged a brace as Llanfair United Reserves edged out Maesyrhandir 2-1 in the same division.

With games in hand, Forden United stayed firmly on course for the second division title after their 5-0 victory at Abermule Reserves.

Ross Harris led the way with a hat-trick, with Jamie Loxam and Charlie Edwards also on the score-sheet.

Llangedwyn still lead the table by a point, but their hopes of finishing in pole position faded after crashing 5-0 to Llanrhaeadr reserves whose Endaf Owens and Huw France both netted twice. Ryan Broadbent also finding the net.

Students provide a tough test for TNS

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

RYAN Brobbel came to the rescue as The New Saints brought the curtain down on their JD Welsh Premier campaign with a 3-3 draw against a spirited Cardiff Met University at Park Hall.

It was not the finish the champions would have wanted, particularly after going two goals up inside seven minutes - and in the end needed a 77th minute strike from Brobbel to earn parity.

They looked to be in charge as Kevin Kaufer marked his place in the starting line up by striking twice early on, but the students hit back before the break through Joel Edwards' sweet strike followed by Jordan Lam's third goal in as many games.

Adam Roscrow then had the visitors ahead two minutes after the interval, but Brobbel levelled 13 minutes from time with a terrific volley as TNS stepped up the pressure late on.

Boss Scott Ruscoe admitted it was a below par end-of-season showing from his side who were given plenty to ponder by the energetic students. "I would like to have finished with a win, but you can't be too disappointed as we won the league convincingly in my first season in charge," he said.

"I was expecting a bit more. It's our 32nd game in the league, and, regardless of whether we've won the league, the attitude should be the same as if it's our first game."

"We played in fits and starts, and we definitely don't want to be playing like that next time we're here in the Champions League in July."

He added: "Cardiff came here knowing that a win would push them up a place in the table which would help them in the play-offs."

"For the neutral it was a good game. They had a lot of chances, and they hurt us more than any other side here this season, but we could have won it in the end."

The Saints flew into a two goal lead inside the first eight minutes, with Ryan Pryce surging into the box and pulling back for Kevin Kaufer to convert before the Estonian striker bagged his second moments later.

But Cardiff Met were up for the fight, and sounded a warning on 16 minutes when Lam crossed for Roscrow who could only divert his shot over the bar.

Chances were coming at both ends, with TNS going close to a third on 22 minutes when Greg Draper was denied by a goal-line block after Simon Spender had played the ball into the box.

Almost instantly, the Archers went up the other end only to be foiled by a smart save by Paul Harrison, but the club captain was beaten on 35 minutes - the first of three Met goals in 12 minutes.

After seizing onto a loose ball on the edge of the box, Edwards drilled a volley into the bottom corner, and the visitors were soon level when Lam fired through a crowded box and the ball found the net via the upright.

The students carried on from where they left off in the second period, and were ahead just two

Games piling up for busy Town



FC Oswestry's Josh Sumner on the ball with Tse Yue in support. ■ Picture: Ian Jones.

WITH the games coming thick and fast, ten-man FC Oswestry Town's tough run continued after slipping to a 4-1 defeat at home to Chadderton.

After their goalless draw against lowly Nelson, Town were looking for a welcome win against another side in the lower half of the table.

But they were up against it after going behind to a Jack Turnbull penalty on 15 minutes

and having Sam Pickering sent off for two bookings seven minutes later.

His first caution was harsh after appearing to get the ball, before receiving his second yellow for pulling back an opponent.

Despite battling hard, Town found themselves 3-0 behind by half time, with Jordan Butterworth (20) and Turnbull, with his second in injury time, adding further goals for the visitors.

Sam Spridgeon pulled one back 12 minutes from time, but Jack O'Leary completed a 4-1 victory for the Oldham outfit.

Town now face two sides below them in the table this week, first at home to Atherton LR on Tuesday before visiting Bacup Borough on Saturday.

On Bank Holiday Monday, they face a trip to north Shropshire rivals Whitchurch Alport who are going well in fourth spot.

Llanrhaeadr champs with five to go

By Dave Cooper

third in the last minute, but their hosts had done enough to seal the league crown.

Llanrhaeadr United lost ground following their 2-0 loss at Aberaeron, while Llanidloes Town boosted their hopes of a third place finish by overcoming Tywyn Bryncrug 3-1 at Victoria Avenue.

Josh Hartwick scored twice with a couple of good finishes, and Peter Rees got the third for the Daffs who were forced to field out-field player Ollie Lewis between the posts with their two first choice keepers injured.

A brace of goals from Jac Petrie earned Carno a 2-0 verdict against Radnor Valley as they chase a fifth placing.

Elsewhere, Berriew slipped to a 2-0 loss at Llanidloes Wells, while Knighton Town boosted their chances of a high finish as they swamped struggling Borth United 8-0.

Llanllanrhaeadr Village went down 2-0 at Builth Wells in the big game in division two, with victory taking the Spa side three points clear at the top of the table.

Abermule succumbed 2-1 to Dolgellau, and Hay St Mary's were 3-2 winners against Penybont in the

other action.

Earlier in the week, Llanrhaeadr moved a step closer to the title as they took over pole position with a 3-0 success at Knighton Town courtesy of goals from Khyam Whyton, Iwan Matthews and Dan Graham.

Llanfair United moved up to third on goal difference after their 5-3 victory in which Andrew Hughes scored twice along with Toby Evans, Josh Astley and Karl Seltaerts.

Matt Mumford and James Price had the Lambs on terms before Ben Davies netted a third.

Berriew finished 1-1 at Churchstoke, Josh Morgan getting their goal while the woodwork twice denied the Rhinesiders all three points.

Two days later, Berriew were involved in a goalless draw at fourth placed Llanidloes Town in a game marred by two serious injuries.

Berriew centre half Rhys Stephens needed surgery on a broken collar bone, while Lani keeper Kris Williams was also taken to hospital with a rib injury. X-rays showed no break, just bruising.

Carno got back to winning ways with a 4-2 verdict at Churchstoke, their goals coming from Jac Petrie, Luke Vince Holt, Joe Morris and Scott Williams.

Aberaeron ran out 3-1 winners at Llanidloes Wells, while Bow Street continued their excellent campaign with a 2-1 verdict at Tywyn Bryncrug.

Guilsfield sign off in style with away win

GUILSFIELD ended their Huws Gray Cymru Alliance campaign on a high note after pulling off an excellent 2-0 victory at one of their chief rivals Holywell Town that kept them on course for a top five finish.

Goals either side of half time from Robbie James and Jake Cook earned a victory that kept the Guils in fourth spot, although they are likely to be overtaken by Holywell who have three games to play.

The villagers knew the need to be at their best against the inform Wellmen, and had to soak up first half pressure with some determined defence and fine saves from keeper Lee Andrew.

And their efforts paid off as they got their noses in front five minutes before half time when James headed in from a Cook assist for an interval lead.

The villagers quickly doubled their lead in the first minute of second half when Chris Cathrall launched a strong run from deep.

The midfielder rounded the keeper, only to see his shot hit the post from a narrow angle, and Cook slotted in the rebound.

Holywell then found themselves down to 10 men as frustrated forward Sam Jones was shown two yellow cards within 60 seconds for dissent.

Despite a man short, the Halkyn Road hosts still carried a threat, forcing James to clear off the line before the visitors saw the game out to return with the spoils.

The poor run of form goes on for relegation-threatened Caersws who slumped 4-1 at Holyhead Hotspur despite taking a seventh minute lead with a Steve Blenkinsop penalty following a foul on Craig Harris.

Despite being pegged back by John Littlemore on the half hour, they had their chances with Blenkinsop and Harris failing to capitalise, while Ryan Davies saw a headed effort superbly saved by keeper Paul Pritchard.

TNS Ladies looking for turnaround

THE New Saints Ladies saw their losing run continue in the FA Women's Premier League Midlands One when being downed 4-1 by champions Loughborough Foxes Women at Park Hall.

Defeat saw the Saints slip down a place to fourth in the table, and have just two league games remaining in which to halt their recent slump.

Before then, they will be out to find form again when they take on Shrewsbury Town Ladies in the final of the Tom Farmer Shropshire Women's Cup at AFC Telford's New Bucks Head on Thursday night (7.30).

Their encounter against the Foxes started well enough after taking the lead through Charlotte Canlett after just 70 seconds, but goalscorer Canlett was then forced off through injury on eight minutes which could keep her out of the cup final in mid-week.

Loughborough, who were given a guard of honour by the Saints before the game, showed their champion credentials to hit back eight minutes before half time through Charlotte Cooper.

Liv Bramley then gave them the lead six minutes after the break, Bramley got her second on 58 before captain Laura Steele completed the scoring six minutes from time.

TNS have two league games remaining, the first against Sheffield United Ladies at Four Crosses on Sunday, May 13, before bringing the curtain down on their season against Solihull Moor Lades the following Sunday at Park Hall.

Sport

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Frustrated cricketers on travels

AFTER a weather delay, Oswestry's cricketers will hope to get their season under way when they head to fellow Birmingham League division one newcomers Halesowen on Saturday (12noon).

Their campaign got off to a soggy start when the opening league game at Himley was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Persistent light rain swept across the Black Country for much of the afternoon, with only Kidderminster and county rivals Shifnal beating the weather and collecting maximum points.

Skipper Robbie Clarke was frustrated by events, but admitted that play was never likely. "It was raining when we arrived and the skies never improved," he said.

"It was disappointing not to have been able to get out on the field of play, and carry on from where we left off in the friendly win against Whitchurch the week before."

Clarke and his promoted side are on the road again this weekend, when they visit Halesowen, who this season are captained by Alexei Kervezee, the former Worcestershire all-rounder who spent 10 years on the New Road staff.

Snapped up by Shropshire this season, he represented the Netherlands in cricket's World Cup at the age of just 17.

The Morda Road side will be hoping to have former India A paceman, Rituraj Singh in their ranks - visa permitting. He is expected to land at Heathrow by Friday, but hard-hitting batsman Alex Ramsay is doubtful with a knee injury.

This Thursday evening sees Oswestry at home to Bridgnorth in the Birmingham League Knockout when a large crowd is expected (6pm).

With the first team at Halesowen, Oswestry Second XI are at home again this weekend when they entertain Smethwick.

The thirds travel to Column while on Sunday, the fourth team host Ludlow IV.

Glas hope to shine – and get first win

CAE Glas hope to make a winning first appearance of the season at Gatacre when they tackle Prees in the Shropshire League division three on Saturday (1pm).

Their first outing at home was called off following the rain, before losing by three wickets away to Calverhall in their first competitive action last weekend.

The Glas were only one of a handful of sides to beat the weather after recent rain saw a number of games abandoned for the second week running.

In division one, Welshpool look to bounce back from a first defeat of the season when they host Allscott on Saturday (1pm), while Knockin & Kinnery visit Alberbury in the same division.

Early leaders Ellesmere look to make it three wins in a row against visiting Shrewsbury III in division two, while Montgomery seek their first action when they entertain Wheaton Aston.

Football Students a tough test for TNS – P39

Rugby Eagles turn on the try power – P38



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Busy summer for New Saints boss

WITH the season done and dusted, The New Saints boss Scott Ruscoe is shaping his squad ahead of the European campaign.

Having wrapped up a seventh successive league crown at the end of March, the Saints brought the season to an end with a 3-3 draw against Cardiff Met University which saw them finish with a 14-point margin at the top.

While his team take a month's break, it's still a busy time for Ruscoe who expects some comings and goings in the next few weeks as he gears up for this summer's Champions League challenge.

"There will be a couple of players leaving, but we also have few coming in to strengthen the

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

squad, and hopefully we can get them over the line in the next few days," he said.

Ruscoe, meanwhile, admitted the league champions were given plenty to ponder in their 3-3 draw against Cardiff Met University in their last outing of the season.

"We played in fits and starts, and we definitely don't want to be playing like that next time we're here in the Champions League in July," he said.

Meanwhile, there's a big date for TNS Ladies who take on Shrewsbury Town Ladies in the final

of the Tom Farmer Shropshire Women's Cup at AFC Telford's New Bucks Head on Thursday night (7.30).

■ Striker Greg Draper picked up two awards at TNS' annual dinner and presentation night, taking the Golden Boot for his 22 league goals as well as being named the supporters player of the season. Jamie Mullan was the players' player of the season and Tom Holland the young player of the season.

Ladies awards: Golden Boot - Emily Ridge; Players' player - Laura Morris; Players' young player - Lia Lewis; Manager's player - Charlotte Canlett; Supporters' player - Stephanie Taylor.

LLAN LOOK TO GROUND-SHARE

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

AMBITION CHAMPIONS Llanrhaeadr have set their sights on gaining promotion to the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance next season - with the help of one of their local rivals.

The villagers wrapped up the Spar Mid Wales League division one crown with five games to spare after overcoming previous leaders Welshpool Town 4-3 last weekend.

After a memorable campaign, they want to challenge themselves in the Cymru Alliance next term - but will need to play their home games elsewhere. With their own ground falling short of the required criteria due to the width of the pitch, Llan officials have had talks with Llansantffraid Village about the possibility of sharing their Trefelan ground.

"We are ambitious and want to move forward as a club," said chairman Mel Roberts. "The players have had a fantastic season and deserve to be rewarded by moving up a league."

"Our ground doesn't quite fit the criteria for promotion at the moment, so we will be working on it over the next 12 months. But we want to go up to the Cymru Alliance now, and are in discussions at the moment exploring the possibility of a ground-share next season."

Llanrhaeadr will hope this can open the door to promotion but, if not, the team who finish second may be eligible to step up.

Meanwhile, Llansantffraid Village have been promoted back to the Spar Mid Wales League division one.

However, hopes of lifting the second division title faded following their 2-0 loss to leaders Builth Wells who are now three points clear.

Struggling Talgarth Town, who were due to visit Montgomery Town in division two, have pulled out of the league after struggling for numbers.

COBRA young guns go for glory



The COBRA players celebrate a try in their semi-final win over Ruthin. ■ Pic: Trevor Jones. COBRA'S young guns will be going for glory when they take on Denbigh in the final of the North Wales Youth Plate at Bangor on Sunday (2pm).

The Meifod lads left it late before a last-minute try from captain Lee Hughes put paid to Ruthin 22-19 in last weekend's hard-fought tie.

Meanwhile, COBRA's senior side will play familiar foes Llanidloes in the final of the Mid Wales Cup later - with the date yet to be confirmed.

It will be the fifth time that the clubs have met this season, having played twice in the

Welsh League division two (north), and also in the Swalec Bowl and Conwy LandRover North Wales Cup.

Matches between the two teams are notoriously close with each side enjoying one victory apiece in the cup games, while COBRA came out top once in the league, and the other meeting was drawn.

Llanidloes booked their place for the final with a closely fought 37-31 win over Aberystwyth Athletic, while the Meifod men had earlier progressed with victory over Builth Wells II.

St Martins all set for promotion

ST MARTINS look to be heading to the newly formed North West Counties League division one (south) next season.

The criteria is a top five finish in the West Midlands League division one, which they achieved with last weekend's 6-1 hammering of Bromyard Town at Morda - their third game in five days.

That followed their 3-1 victory over Worcester Raiders two nights before, and means they cannot finish any lower than fourth spot.

Next season, they hope to share the Park Hall ground with FC Oswestry Town who are already in the North West Counties League.

"We are confident of going up next season," said manager Dan Stevens. "From where the club was 16 months ago, it has been a fantastic turnaround."

"To win 14 out of 16 is a great achievement. Had we had a better start to the season, then we could have won the league. We have set records this season, with the club getting its most points in the league, and scoring its most goals."

The Saints now turn their thoughts to the league cup with a second round meeting against Gornal Athletic on Thursday night at Park Hall. Should they win, they will set up a quarter-final tie with Telford Juniors.

They then bring the curtain down on their league campaign away to Newport Town on Bank Holiday Monday.

Guils looking to sign off with Cup

GUILSFIELD can take plenty of positives as they look poised for a top five finish in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance.

The villagers brought the curtain down on a successful league campaign with a 2-0 success at in-form Holywell Town courtesy of goals either side of half-time through Robbie James and Jake Cook. Victory at Halkyn Road kept the Guils in fourth, but they are likely to be overtaken by Holywell who still have three games to play.

It has been a satisfying campaign for boss Nathan Leonard in his first season in charge after taking over from Danny Barton. And his side could still finish with some silverware after booking their place for the final of the Central Wales Cup.

Border Rally goes from Showground

THE finishing touches are being put in place for the Welsh Border Car Club's Border 200 rally this weekend.

More than 90 cars are lined up to take part in the 200-mile rally on local tracks criss-crossing the border over the Bank Holiday weekend. The rally will get under way at Oswestry Showground on the Friday night, before teams face a unique test of driver aptitude, navigator expertise and team dedication.

For more information
please see page 15



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